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THE ARCHER




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Globetrotter: Marcel Thomas Lee

Marcel's slam dunk

By Alika Lee

Four years ago you might have seen him training in Cherry Tree Wood. Today, Marcel Thomas Lee is showing off his basketball skills and teaching the sport at a university in the States.

After many years of training and endless competitions, Marcel, 20, sent videos of himself playing the sport and won a scholarship to study and play at McMurry University in Texas.

The former Barnet and Southgate College student has loved the sport since he was 10 but really started taking it seriously when he reached 16, training nearly every day and using the Cherry Tree Wood courts to practise his moves.

THE ARCHER: can you help us with distribution?

THE ARCHER is looking for a volunteer to help count and sort newspapers for our rounds. Each month, the new issue of the paper will be delivered direct to your door, in bundles of 50, and it takes about 2-3 hours to sort the rounds. Our distributors will then pick up the rounds from you.

The only requirements are the ability to take the papers indoors and a ground-floor room or dry garage large enough to count them and store

them for a day or two. We give our sincere thanks to Rose Molloy who has done the job so well for the last two years. Can you help with this essential task? Please email us at the-archer@lineone.net, leave a message on our Freephone number 0800 612 0748 or drop us a line on Facebook or Twitter @TheArcherN2.

Residents on The Grange landed with huge bills

By Charlotte Black

Leaseholders living at Grange Estate, off Oak Lane, are in uproar over bills recently sent to them ranging from £5,000 to as much as £11,000 to cover the cost of maintenance on communal areas.

Barnet Homes proposes to start a £2.5 million repair project within the next financial year but leaseholders argue that they are unable to afford to pay these "unbelievable" bills with so little notice.

Barnet Homes has said that leaseholders can pay in instalments over the next two years, but that those who can pay upfront will be given a 2.5% discount. One leaseholder told *THE ARCHER* that the majority of leaseholders will not be able to afford to take advantage of this offer.

Another Grange Estate resident, Vanya Georgieva, drew attention to the fact that if you subtract her mortgage, bills and council tax as well the service charge from the average annual adult's wage in London she would be left with

less than £100 a month to spend on staples such as food, clothes, insurance and pension plans.

She is being asked to find just over £300 a month for two years in order to cover the bill for repairs that was sent to her. Some leaseholders are being asked to pay up to £500 a month.

Barnet Homes met with people who live in Berwick House on the Grange and agreed to a further consultation meeting to discuss the charges.

The organisation has said it encourages leaseholders to meet them on a one-to-one basis to discuss their concerns and find possible payment solutions.

If any leaseholders would like to find out more or provide information on a similar experience, the leaseholders group can be contacted by email at Grange-Leaseholders@outlook.com

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Big Fun Walk is back

This year's Big Fun Walk in aid of North London Hospice takes place on Sunday 22 March, setting off from East Finchley tube station for a gentle eight-mile route through north London's glorious parks finishing at Westminster. You can have fun taking part and help to raise vital funds for the hospice by registering at www.bigfunwalk.co.uk.

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