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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Arts festival: Martin School Choir sing to a packed house at All Saint's Church. Photo Mike Coles

East Finchley Arts Festival

Turn to page 4 for our festival reviews and more photos



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Get set for Christmas Festival

By Diana Cormack
Preparations are in progress for the East Finchley Christmas Festival which will take place on Saturday 5 December. This event is organised by volunteers from our community who work hard to produce the festive fun which has drawn ever-increasing crowds to the High Road over the last three years.

Stalls run by local businesses, charities and schools will open at 10am offering a wide variety of things to buy, taste or experience.

Continued on page 3

Supermarket chain plans to take over two High Road shops

By Diana Cormack

Following months of rumours, a planning application has been made to convert two High Road businesses into a Sainsbury's Local convenience store situated on the corner of Leicester Road.

The sites concerned are Bike and Run at 134 and Mama Jack at 132, which only recently changed from being the Italian restaurant Va Pensiero. Now the gourmet burger restaurant faces relocating, whilst 'Bike and Run' would have to move into their smaller existing premises at 128 High Road.

Benefits

Sainsbury's says a new store will benefit the locality by creating up to 20-25 new job opportunities and adds that, in similar high street locations across London, by attracting more people to the area it has brought increased trade to neighbouring businesses.

The opening hours for such shops are usually from 7am to 11pm seven days a week. An ATM machine and disabled access are included in the plans. At the time of writing, details of their liquor licence application are fixed to a post on the pavement nearby.

Differences of opinion

Some local residents who have been contacting *THE*

ARCHER on Twitter and Facebook have welcomed news of the proposed development, saying it will bring more choice and convenience for shoppers and more competition for other chain stores on the High Road.

Others object to another in-coming chain store and fear it could damage the small independent businesses for which East Finchley High Road is noted. In trying to allay fears, Sainsbury's have pointed out their desire to play an active role in local communities. This includes promoting safer neighbourhoods, supporting a nominated local charity each year and running its nationwide 'Active Kids' programme.

Memory lane

The prospective arrival of a new supermarket will revive memories of the 'Warning on Waitrose' campaign run by a group of residents in 2003. The proposal to build a huge superstore opposite the tube station, demolishing homes, shops and offices and involving the loss of East Finchley's Grade 2 listed library, divided opinion in the area and still does.

See Letters, page 11.

In this issue:

New business network...p2
Arts festival review.....p4
Policing cuts.....p5
Yoga for mums.....p6
Libraries latest.....p7
Grange Big Local.....p9



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