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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Hello, East Finchley!

Host Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock and local resident and actor Carolyn Pickles entertain the crowds at East Finchley's Christmas Festival. Turn to pages 6 & 7 for more photos from the day.

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Man stabbed in High Road

Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was stabbed on the High Road in East Finchley. The incident happened on Wednesday 30 December shortly after 3pm near to the junction with Huntingdon Road.

The man in his mid-50s was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

A 32-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Anyone who was in the area or witnessed the assault is asked to contact police via 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Parents' anger at new rules for admission to Academy

By Neil McNaughton

East Finchley's newest secondary school The Archer Academy has provoked a storm of protest from parents after proposing fresh criteria for admissions that exclude Holy Trinity Primary School, situated right next door to its Stanley Field campus, from its list of feeder schools.

The academy's proposals would mean that 95 of the 150 places available would go to siblings of current pupils and to children who qualify on the basis of proximity to the school. This aspect of the criteria is not controversial. What is causing criticism concerns the remaining 55 places available to children from local schools.

Preferred feeder schools

For them, the governors have named five primary schools as 'preferred' sources of these further admissions. The chosen schools are Martin Primary, N2, Brookland Junior, NW11, Garden Suburb Junior, NW11, Manorside Primary, N3, and Tudor Primary, N3.

Opponents of the move argue that this new policy would be discriminatory to Holy Trinity children and divide the

community in N2. The academy says the feeder schools were chosen because they are within its priority postcodes, within 1.5 miles of the school and share the school's ethos of non-selective, non-denominational, co-educational schooling.

Parents' reactions

Alan Crockford, a parent with children at both the Archer Academy and Holy Trinity, commented: "The Archer Academy was supposed to be a good, local state school without entry criteria other than locality. Now they are seeking to change it to become a school where one criterion for entry is never to have been associated with a church school. It seems like a big step from a non-faith school to an anti-faith school."

Continued on page 2.

Contracts exchanged on Esso site

By Janet Maitland

We're one small step nearer to finding out what will be built on the site of the former Esso garage on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road.

Esso told *THE ARCHER* in December that it is selling the land and has got as far as exchanging contracts. "We expect to complete the sale in the first half of 2016," said a spokesperson.

However, they also said that it would not be appropriate for them to comment on the purchaser's plans for the site. All options are therefore still open and we'll be keeping an eye on the council's website.

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