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Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk



Home sweet home: School 'tribe' members in one of their dens in Coldfall Woods

## School tribes twig how to make a den

There was a mini-invasion of Coldfall Wood by 90 pupils from Coldfall Primary School who brought along their parents, grandparents and carers for an afternoon of den building. The Year 1 children wore tribal face paints and worked as teams to create makeshift dwellings from natural and man-made materials.

Eleni Maylappas, head of Year 1, said: "We had been reading the story of the three little pigs in English lessons and learning about materials in science so we wanted to link the two."

Emily Walsh, aged six, said: "We brought in pegs and bamboo and tin foil from home. We made a special potion in the class to stop it raining and it didn't! It was really fun."

## And finally... decision time on future of the Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

The future of the Old Barn is about to be decided, after more than a year of often heated consultation between Barnet Council and local residents. In November, the council asked people living within 100 metres of the site to make their final comments. The planning committee will make its decision on 27 January.

The council is proposing to demolish the community centre on Tarling Road and replace it with a two-storey community 'hub', half of which will be leased to the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association (SBWA), in order to provide the facilities lost when their centre on Coppetts Road, N10, was destroyed in a racist arson attack in 2013. The new building will cost £2.65 million.

### Ring-fenced money

If, for any reason, planning permission is not given for the new building and therefore

it is impossible to re-provide the facilities to the SBWA lost in the fire, what will happen to the Old Barn? There's currently £940,000 ring-fenced for refurbishing the Old Barn in the council's Capital Asset Management Fund. What would happen to this in these circumstances?

Barnet Council told us the Asset Management Fund is ring-fenced for refurbishing any asset in the council's portfolio across the borough. If the planning application is rejected, a new business case would need to be developed to identify and justify the best value for money option for each facility before any funds could be re-committed.

### To split or not to split

THE ARCHER noted that the planning application doesn't mention the council's plans to

split the proposed new building vertically down the middle and to lease one side of it to the SBWA and the other half to other leaseholders. Has there been a change of plan?

A council spokesperson replied: "The building will not be formally split in two. The SBWA are interested in leasing around 50% of the available space. As many of their activities need to be adjacent to each other, it seemed logical to offer the SBWA the option to lease the space in one half of the building. We will try to accommodate the needs of other interested groups in exactly the same way. Negotiations will take place with all potential lessees, including the SBWA, in the coming months, including how the facilities can be shared when not in use."

## Bright Sparks

The next monthly meeting of the Bright Sparks small business network is on Thursday 28 January from 9.30am to 11.30am at Zebra Café, 110 Alexandra Park Road, London N10 2AE.

Designed as a place where small businesses can share their experiences, the event costs £10 for non-members and £7.50 for members of the Small Business Network. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/bright-sparks-event>

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## Be part of the Monday Club

By Diana Cormack

Last October the Monday Club celebrated its 10th birthday. During that decade Maureen Clemetson, who started the youth club at the High Road Methodist Church, has moved around with it to St Mary's RC church hall, Holy Trinity School, the Old Barn, the Ann Owens Centre and, for the longest time, at Martin School.

Now they are based at the Archer Academy where fellow organiser Joe Strong has great plans for what they hope to achieve there. These include attracting more young people. Currently 60 youngsters between eight and 21 attend but Joe hopes to add another evening, with the two nights targeting different age groups. He would like to create closer links with all the local schools from which the club members are mainly drawn.

Quite a few of their footballers live on Strawberry Vale and the Grange Estate. It is fitting that they should have use of the outdoor football facilities as their predecessors played an active part in the fight to keep the Stanley Field for East Finchley residents.

### Community involvement

Joe told THE ARCHER that, since the Wilmott Youth Centre closed in 2003, the Monday Club

has provided a valuable service to many of the most vulnerable young people in East Finchley. Its overall aim is to break down barriers and forge links within the community. By offering this facility, they hope to help counteract disaffection and crime and to improve safety.

Older members are being trained to become mentors and coaches for younger ones, a skill which could be useful for future employment. The club is free of charge and the team of six staff all give their time voluntarily so donations or contributions of any kind from members of the community are always welcome. People are also welcome to share their skills and experiences at the club on an occasional basis.

"We'd like to call upon all the resources in our community," Joe said. "Come and help us if you can."

For further information call

07931 586740 or email [joe.alftupper@gmail.com](mailto:joe.alftupper@gmail.com).

## New traffic cameras

Barnet Council is planning to install new traffic enforcement cameras early this year. They say that signs and lines will be clearly visible weeks before enforcement begins.

Areas targeted will be near schools and at selected junctions to deter drivers from parking dangerously, undertaking illegal manoeuvres or obstructing the flow of traffic. The council says the intention is to improve road safety near schools and to manage congestion by keeping traffic moving.

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