



THE ARCHER

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Voicemail (messages only) 0800 612 0748 for editorial and general enquiries or 0800 612 4027 for Advertising enquiries only

Published by

East Finchley Newspapers

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Printed By

Sharman & Co Ltd

Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag for providing us with a meeting place.

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

Copy deadlines – April: 11 March, May: 15 April, June: 13 May

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Barnet

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000

Council Tax 020 8359 2608

Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600

Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700

Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500

Employment Service 020 8258 3900

Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121

East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664

Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020

Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007

Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789

Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080

Warner Cinema Village 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950

City Airport 020 7646 0088

London Transport 020 7222 1234

National Express 08705 808080

Heathrow Airport 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111

Cruse Bereavement Care 0870 167 1677

Disability Info Service 020 8359 7637

EF Advice Service 020 8444 6265

Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146

Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700

National Debt Line 0808 808 4000

NSPCC 0800 800500

Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline

020 8683 3300

Relate 020 8447 8101

Samaritans 08457 909090

Refuge National Crisis Line

0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSLINE 020 8363 2141

Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555

Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688

Cancer Support 020 8202 2211

Carers' Line 0808 808 7777

Drinkline 0800 917 8282

Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

Health Info Service 0800 665544

MIND 020 8343 5700

National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

Crime

Emergency 999

Police non-emergency 101

CrimeStoppers 0800 555111

Victim Support 0845 303 0900

Hospitals

NHS 111

Barnet General 020 8216 4000

Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792

Edgware General 020 8952 2381

Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500

Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343

Royal Free 020 7794 0500

St Luke's 020 8219 1800

Whittington 020 7272 3070

Western Eye Hospital 020 7886 6666

OAP's Advice

Age UK Barnet 020 8203 5040

Independent Age 0800 319 6789

Age UK (general advice line)

0800 169 2081

Strawberry Vale

Continued from page 1

On 20 January, the National Grid closed down one of the two meters supplying the estate, replacing it two days later. Laurence Williamson, chair of the Strawberry Vale Residents Association, said:

"The Peabody Trust initially claimed that the National Grid supply was unsafe. This was quickly and conclusively disproved". The National Grid have stated that their supply is safe, and a split water pipe in the old one had been lowering pressure.

However, at the time of writing and despite media coverage by LBC and ITV, and a visit from MP Mike Freer, the Peabody Trust has still refused to reconnect the supply.

Instead, residents say that they have been offered supermarket vouchers if they choose to have an electric cooker, and advice on cutting the costs of

using electricity (including night storage heating).

As part of their legal action, residents can sign up for compensation claims on a no win, no fee basis.

The legal hearing was scheduled to take place at the Royal Courts of Justice on Friday 4 March at 2pm.

Peabody said in a statement early in February: "We apologise for the continuing disruption at Strawberry Vale. We have offered to provide and install a choice of cookers/hobs to all affected residents for free.

"Alternatively, if residents would prefer to obtain their own electric cooker we will provide £500 to enable them to do so. In the interim we continue to provide temporary cookers and hotplates.

"Our staff continue to work with the community and volunteers to support residents.

Oak Lodge School opens its own shop

By Diana

Cormack

Oak Lodge is a special school maintained by Barnet Council for young people between the ages of 11 and 19 who have complex learning difficulties and autism. In early February the school

opened a shop at 132 East End Road, a few minutes' walk from its site in Heath View.

'The Lodge' is a unique project which offers students meaningful work experience and raises the profile of youngsters with disabilities within the local community. The generosity of an Oak Lodge parent has funded and arranged the entire shop re-fit.

It will be supported by the Oak Lodge Foundation Trust 'Hearts of Oak' while donations

from the Hadley Trust, Jesus Hospital Charity and Finchley Charities have enabled this important project to go ahead.

Acquiring a range of skills

The shop will sell seasonal gifts, cards and stationery and the students will be involved in all aspects of the business including purchasing stock, display, pricing, marketing and accounting as well as the all-important customer service.

Young people from Barnet and Southgate College's Oak Bridge 19 - 35 provision will

also be working at the shop. The aim is to be able to offer appropriate retail qualifications to increase employability significantly and to improve outcomes for the students.

An exciting aspect of the project is that it can use retail space to showcase goods produced in the local community such as artwork, jewellery and crafts. The bigger vision is for local volunteers to work in the shop and increase the opening hours.

At present The Lodge is open from 10am - 2pm on Monday to Friday in term time only. If you are interested in any way, pop into the shop, phone 020 8444 5400 or the school on 020 8444 6711 or email info@oaklodge.barnet.sch.uk



The deputy mayor of Barnet Cllr. Alison Cornelius opens the Oak Lodge School shop on East End Road. Photo Mike Coles

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Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

East Finchley charity The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood will be holding their AGM at 12 noon in the Old White Lion pub on the High Road on Sunday 13 March. Everyone is welcome to attend and discuss Cherry Tree Wood. The group is also looking for people with skills, experience or ideas that could help preserve the woodland and enhance the facilities.