



Dental practice takes over from doctor's surgery

By Diana Cormack

A new dental practice has opened in the building once occupied by the Cherry Tree GP surgery, which was, controversially to some, closed down two years ago following a Care Quality Commission inspection.

The site in Southern Road, N2, is being given a new lease of life under the care of Dr Ashok Reddy as a smart dental centre housing The Finchley Dentist.

With qualifications from Liverpool University, the Royal College of Surgeons and The University of Manchester, Dr Reddy started his dental career in Liverpool in 2005 and moved to London less than two years ago.

He is enthusiastic about his

profession (he specialises in root canal work) and told *The Archer*: "Going to dental school was the best thing ever."

Dr Reddy's initial plans are to have two, then eventually three surgeries there, with dental nurse Imola Dobos managing the non-NHS practice, which opened in mid-April. Full details can be found at www.thefinchleydentist.com and by telephone on 020 3488 0335.



Dr Ashok Reddy (right) with assistant Imola Dobos. Photo Mike Coles

No inquiry into Barnet's library services

By John Lawrence

A request by library users for the Culture Secretary to order an inquiry into the state of library services in Barnet has been turned down.

Jeremy Wright responded to campaigners who wanted him to hold Barnet Council to account for a decline in user numbers and for, they say, making libraries difficult to access, particularly for young people.

The Culture Secretary gave a detailed response to their request, criticising the way the council implemented some of its changes over the last two years, but ultimately concluding that the council was not failing in its legal obligations "to provide an efficient and comprehensive library service".

Disappointed members of Save Barnet Libraries (SBL) said they now had no choice but to watch closely the independent review of library provision that Barnet Council is planning to commission soon. The group's Emily Burnham said: "The paltry fact-finding exercise carried out by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport is immediately noticeable. Clearly the Minister is happy to rely on whatever the council has told him, while ignoring alternative and substantial evidence provided by library users, teachers and schools."

Barnet Council's own figures show that six out of fourteen libraries in the borough have suffered falls in visitors of between 41% and 59%, says SBL. It says the system of electronic entry by PIN number is excluding young people.



Pick a card: Muriel Bouvier with her handy maths revision system. Photo Mike Coles

Muriel takes the misery out of maths

By Ruth Anders

How many people look forward to maths lessons? Not many I'd guess, but hypnotherapist and maths tutor Muriel Bouvier is changing all that, combining both skills to help her students approach maths GCSE in a happier way.

With an engaging manner and winning smile, Muriel encourages her students to realise that some maths problems can be "disappointingly easy", adding that "a teenager's brain is completely unfinished, and a false sense of ineptitude can easily take root in a young mind. So much is down to a student's confidence, and mistakes are an essential part of the learning process."

Before leaving her native France to study for a PhD in neuroscience at UCL, Muriel taught maths as a teenager to earn pocket money. She now coaches students to build their confidence and offer different methods to solve problems.

Keep calm and self-test

Muriel, who lives in Shakespeare Gardens, N2, has

designed a set of 216 double sided cards that provide students with a means of testing themselves through revision, using colour coding to provide answers.

By using the cards, which are suitable for Years 9 to 11, students quickly ascertain the areas needing their further attention. She also uses coloured pens as neuro-linguistic programming tools to help dispel the panic many feel when they enter the exam room.

"When students go into panic mode", says Muriel, "they have no access to what they've learned. Finding speedy ways to calm down is critical."

Win a set of Muriel's cards

Knowledge of the cards can

be used to tackle a wide range of questions, like the one below for younger readers of *The Archer* to solve. The sender of the first correct answer will receive a free set of cards, value £20.

I have four rectangular pieces of paper of length 25cm each. I stick the four pieces together using the 1.5cm sticky ends (both ends), to make a circular loop.

What is the radius of the loop (assuming the loop is a perfect circle)? Give your answer to two decimal places and show your working. Remember the unit.

Email your answer to info@BetterAtMaths.com by Wednesday 15 May. The winner will be picked at random from all correct entries and the answer will appear in the June edition of *The Archer*.

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