



Open to all: The Holy Trinity drop-in centre is open on Tuesday afternoons. Photo Mike Coles

Warm hands, warm welcome

By Diana Cormack

On Tuesday 14 February, only a few days after refurbishment had been completed, a new drop-in centre was launched at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2.

Vicar Father Marius told *The Archer* that thanks to the recently installed heating system the congregation can now take their coats off, making the setting up of the centre feasible as they now feel able to offer a warm space to those who need it.

There is disabled access and

everyone, whatever their age, is welcome on Tuesday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm. Free refreshments are available with toys and games close at hand in the playroom adjoining this warm and friendly space.

The centre is the brainchild of parishioners Sandy and John Barker who live nearby, ably

assisted by Julia Hines of the Grange Big Local. For more information contact info@grangebiglocal.org

This warm space will be available weekly until the end of April and will re-open later in the year, subject to review and prevalent conditions.

Fly-tipping fears as skip is moved on

By Diana Cormack

The delight of local residents at the removal of the abandoned skip in Brompton Grove (*The Archer*, January 2023) was short-lived.

Having liaised with Barnet Council over the problem of this long-standing unsavoury heap, they were pleased when a lorry arrived and took it away in early February.



Pile it high: The skip is gone from Brompton Grove but rubbish remains.

anything that had fallen from the overflowing rubbish or had been deposited around it was not disposed of and, at the time of writing, was still lying there in the road.

Ignoring the fact that some could have been contaminated by whatever the skip contained, it is an open invitation, if one was needed, for other fly-tippers to add to the pile.

Word is still awaited about it being cleared away, but as Brompton Grove is an unadopted road it is not clear that Barnet Council is responsible. Perhaps someone should do something before it becomes a health and safety or environmental health issue.

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Changes to bus routes bring new connections to N2

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last year we reported on a Transport for London proposal to switch the routes of the 143 and 263 buses between the A1 junction and Archway. This was just one of a raft of proposals for scrapping and altering bus routes across London. Public reaction against all these proposals was so strong that, with extra funding of £25m per year from Mayor Sadiq Khan, only 22% of the service changes consulted on will now go ahead.

TFL say that these changes will be only in areas where “numerous alternative public transport options exist”. Here are the changes affecting East Finchley.

263 route

The 263 still runs between Barnet General Hospital and Highbury Barn, but is now rerouted after the Woodside Avenue bus stop on the Great North Road to follow the same route as the 143, via North Hill, Highgate Village, Highgate Hill and Whittington Hospital to Archway Station. It then continues as before through Holloway to Highbury Barn.

It is still scheduled to run every 10-minutes during the day on Mondays to Saturdays, and every 12 minutes in the evenings and on Sundays. It no longer covers Archway Road and Highgate Station, but that section can be reached by the newly extended 234.

234 route

The 234, which used to run from Barnet Spires via Froern Barnet Road, Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and East Finchley station to Highgate Wood, now continues along Archway Road to Archway Station, finishing at bus stop W on Junction Road. The return journey starts at bus stop G on Highgate Hill. It is still timetabled for every 12 minutes during the day on Mondays to Saturdays, and every 20 minutes during the evening and on Sundays.

143 route

The schooltime-only journeys at 08.05 from Archway Station to East Finchley Cemetery and 15.25 from East Finchley Cemetery to Archway Station are withdrawn. There are no changes to the route, and the timetable is still every 12 minutes during the daytime on Monday to Saturdays and every 15 minutes during the evening and all day on Sundays.

N271 route

This night bus replaces the former N271 between Moorgate, Finsbury Square and Highgate Village, before running via the revised 263 route to North Finchley via North Hill, East Finchley Station, High Road East Finchley and High Road North Finchley. There

it finishes at bus stop Z2 on Ballards Lane and starts from bus stop E on North Finchley High Road. It will run every 30 minutes on all nights of the week. The daytime 271 has been withdrawn.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:
March 2013

Stanley Road playing field was sold to the Archer Academy for £3.55 million, funded by the Department for Education, for the construction of a new school building for younger pupils at the Academy. A business plan submitted by Sport EF to create a multi-sports facility for the whole community, backed by organisations including the Marathon Trust and Sport England, was rejected by Barnet Council.

15 years ago:
March 2008

Access to the road alongside Park House, opposite East Finchley station, and the parking spaces it leads to was blocked off by Barnet Council and remains so after 15 years. The vacant Park House was then up for sale following the departure of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and remained empty for some time before becoming a nursery. The area remains an unsightly approach to the entrance to Cherry Tree Wood.

23 years ago:
March 2000

The Phoenix Cinema hosted a film premiere, the first public screening of *The End of the Affair* adapted from the novel by Graham Greene. In contrast to glitzy West End events, the audience was treated to homemade cakes, wine donated by Waitrose in Ballards Lane and tea from an urn lent by Martin School. The sell-out audience could also participate in a raffle and in total over £5,000 was raised towards refurbishment of the Phoenix, which featured briefly in the film.



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