



## THE ARCHER

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*Thank you to Madden's Ale House 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.*

### Your contributions

If you have a news item, memory or anecdote please send it in to us at the above address.

THE ARCHER aims to publish on the first weekend each month. To maximise the chance of publication, all contributors are urged to submit their articles early the preceding month:

14 November is the copy deadline for the December issue.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Utilities (for N2)

Eastern Energy	0800 783 8838
London Electricity	0800 096 9000
OFTEL	020 7634 8700
Thames Water	0845 920 0888
Three Valleys Water	0845 782 3333
Gas consumers cncl.	0645 060708
Transco Gas Emerg.	0800 111 999

### Councils

<b>Barnet</b>	
Admin/Town Hall	020 8359 2000
Council Tax	020 8359 2608
Recycling & refuse	020 8359 4600
Health Authority	020 8201 4700
Com'ty Health Cncl	020 8349 4364
Benefits Agency	020 8258 6500
Employment Service	020 8258 3900
<b>Haringey Council</b>	020 8975 9700

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace	020 8365 2121
Copthall Sports Ctr.	020 8361 8658
E. Finchley Library	020 8883 2664
Gt North Leisure Pk.	020 8343 9830
Muswell Hill Odeon	0870 505 0007
Phoenix Cinema	020 8883 2233
Tourist Info Service	0870 126 4018
Warner Cinema Village	020 8446 9933

*\*Calls to 09065 numbers are charged at £1.50 per minute.*

### Help & Advice

Barnet Racial Equality Council	020 8446 0445
Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau	020 8349 0954
Cruse Bereavement Care	020 7431 7122
Disability Info Service	020 8446 6935
E Finchley Advice Service	020 8444 6265
Gingerbread	020 8445 4227
Missing Persons Helpline	0500 700700
National Debt Line	0808 808 4000
NSPCC	0800 800500
Rape Crisis Centre	020 7837 1600
Relate	020 8445 0888
Samaritans	020 8889 6888
Refuge National Crisis Line	0870 599 5443

### Health Advice

AIDS Helpline	0800 567123
Alcoholics Anonymous	020 7352 3001
Barnet MENCAP	020 8203 6688
CancerLink	0800 132905
Carers National Assoc.	020 8343 3665
Drinkline	0800 9178282
Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
Health Information Service	0800 665544
Homeopathic Helpline	09065 343404*
MIND	020 8343 5700
N. London Blood Service	020 8258 2700

### OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern	020 8346 3511
Barnet OAPs Welfare	020 8441 4853
Contact (N2)	020 8444 1162
Counsel & Care	0845 300 7585
Help the Aged	0800 096 2541

### Crime

Emergency	999
Finchley Police	020 8200 1212
Golders Gr. Police	020 8209 1212
Muswell Hill Police	020 8442 1212
CrimeStoppers	0800 555111
Victim Support	020 8343 4435

### Hospitals

Barnet General	020 8216 4000
Coppetts Wood	020 8883 9792
Edgware General	020 8952 2381
Finchley Memorial	020 8349 3121
Oak Lane Clinic	020 8346 9343
Royal Free	020 7794 0500
St Luke's	020 8219 1800
Whittington	020 7272 3070
Western Eye Hosp	020 7886 6666

### Transport

BR Enquiries	0845 484950
City Airport	020 7646 0000
Greenline	02086687261
LT Enquiries	020 7222 1234
Grey-Green	020 8800 8010
National Express	08705 808080
Heathrow	020 8759 4321

### Animal Welfare

Nat Strays Bureau	09065 123999*
RSPCA	0870 5555999

## Blaze Destroys Park Café

By Diana Cormack

Park users have been left stunned and saddened by the destruction of the kiosk café in Cherry Tree Wood. It burned down during the early hours of Wednesday 2 October. At the time of writing there has been no explanation as to the cause of the blaze. However, THE ARCHER has been told of two possibilities.

One workman clearing the site said that he believed the café's wheelie bin may have been set on fire and that this had spread to the building itself. But locals visiting the scene soon after the event observed that whilst the upper parts of the walls were badly burned, the lower parts were not, possibly indicating a fire being started inside.

Eileen Cannon, who leased the premises from Barnet Council, thought that intruders could have got in through the roof at the back. The park warden's hut was recently damaged by fire, also in the early hours.

This follows increased vandalism over the past couple of years, including damage to fences and repeated destruction of benches and playground equipment. Only last year, large pieces of fencing intended for

use in the park were set alight and the fire fuelled by the café's outside furniture.

### Notorious

After four years of running the café Eileen says that this has been the worst year for violence and trouble. The level of threats and abuse she receives has increased, particularly from secondary school truants who appear to be under the influence of drink and drugs. Local concern has been growing about this and the park is becoming a well-known gathering point for young people drinking and taking drugs.

A letter, which calls upon local residents to write to councillors urging them to take action, asks for the park to be locked at night and encourages people to support the park-keeper.

The sorrow of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood at the loss of the popular café reflects that of people of all ages who have enjoyed its facilities for as long as some of them can remember. Barnet Council has not yet approved plans submitted for the redevelopment of the pavilion as a café. Perhaps it would be feasible to shelve those plans and build a new café, to emerge like a phoenix from the sunnier site of the old one.

## Even More Flats for East Finchley

Applications for planning permission have been made on two long-vacant sites.

One is a proposed major development of the former National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Great North Road, N2. The building, situated in a conservation area with many protected trees in the grounds, is behind the Old White Lion public house. After demolition the developers want to erect a four-storey block of ten residential flats, a four-storey block of 18 residential flats and a three-storey

building to be used for Educational Purposes (intended for The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute). Basement car parking for each building is proposed, plus associated access roads. Formation of a new vehicular access to The Bishops Avenue is envisaged, as well as a change of use of the existing lodge to a separate dwelling house.

The other concerns land adjacent to 373, High Road for a new residential development comprising six two-bedroom self-contained flats in a three-storey block with associated parking provision, refuse, storage and amenity space. Access from the A406 slip road is proposed.

## Christmas Lights Anticipated

By John Dearing  
We often say that Christmas gets earlier each year, but when it comes to the Christmas lights in the East Finchley High Road, the anticipation is very real.

Once again organised by Lawrie Chivers and Dino Loizou, it is planned that the lights will be going up in mid-November, and switched on towards the end of November. This year, they have included some moving lights, in particular a special mobile for the light standard near Martin School.

The East Finchley lights are funded by donations from local businesses and residents; in anticipation of plenty of support, donations can be made at the shops of A1 Chivers Brothers or East Finchley Electrical.

## Free Garden Waste Collection

Barnet Council's drive to increase the level of recycling in the borough has received a massive boost.

Over 1,000 households have already signed up to use the council's trial green garden waste collection service. The free weekly collection is being piloted in parts of the borough for a year.

Householders participating in the scheme are supplied with a garden waste wheeled bin for items such as grass clippings, hedge cuttings and weeds, all of which will be composted and reused.

The council has been set targets to recycle 18% of all its household waste by 2003/4, rising to 27% by 2005/6. For more details about this service, call 020 8359 4296 or e-mail fred.woodworth@barnet.gov.uk.