



## 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 August is the copy deadline for the October 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

**Barnet**  
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  
**Haringey Council** 020 8975 9700

### Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121  
Cophall 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 020 8668 7261  
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



42 Church Lane, London N2 8DT.  
Tel/Fax: 020 8444 6265

## HELP HELP HELP Looking for a good cause to support?

We are a local charity providing free advice to local residents on Welfare Benefits, Housing, Debt, Immigration, Employment, Education and a variety of legal issues. Last year we helped over four thousand people from every ethnic background.

We are only partly funded by the London Borough of Barnet and rely on our fundraising efforts to supplement our running costs. If you are able to help us with a donation or sponsorship we would like to hear from you.

If you would like to know more about East Finchley Advice Service please call Terry Stone (020 8444 6265) or Daniel Shaw (020 7201 0810) or visit us at 42 Church Lane, East Finchley N2 8DT.

## More Than a Change of Costume

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Colin of Culture Vultures wants to present another face to the world. After 19 years in the fancy-dress trade (two in Muswell Hill and 17 in East Finchley), he is planning to sell the business and try something completely different - perhaps reflexology.**

It seems that Barnet Council have brought about a reflex action already. "They keep raising the rates, which are now phenomenal. I'm on the edge of East Finchley, but I have to pay £350 a month, plus an extra £160 to have my bin emptied - and that's just the standard bin. If this was one of those businesses which need more, I'd be paying more too."

"We must have been doing something right to have lasted this long. Culture Vultures is cheap. You get three costumes for what you would pay for one in the West End, which various television companies appreciate." In fact, it was a recommendation in the *Evening Standard* that led me to interview him in 1999 - an interview fitted in between a stream of customers, in person and on the telephone.

### Time for a change

We talked this time on the 25th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, with a couple of customers trying to look like the

King, and frequent phone calls about Elvis costumes. A friend of one of the wannabees echoed my thought, - "This must be a great place to work".

Now, though, Colin wants a change. "This is great when I have responsive customers, but I'm interested in trying something more holistic, more spiritual. Maybe reflexology, though on a course I went on recently there were just two token men - and the other one had been sent by his girl-friend."

He has always been environmentally friendly. Face-paints on sale in the shop proved that they really are non-toxic when one of his daughters, then 18 months old, ate half a mini-tub. Apart from terrifying her grandmother with a completely black nappy, she suffered no ill effects.

As time begins to make itself felt (clothes he wore in his younger days are now period pieces to some customers), his "regulars" will wish Colin well in his new ventures. The good news is that he does intend to sell as a business, meaning that East Finchley should still keep its fancy dress shop.

*Culture Vultures is at 200, High Road. Tel. 020 8883 5525*

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## Local Traders get a Business Buddy

By John Dearing

**East Finchley traders have been taking advantage of the Business Buddy scheme, which is part of the Skills Development for Retail and Distribution project being managed by Tracey Anthony-Winter on behalf of Barnet College.**

Tracey said that while the number of new small retailers is high, the rate of closures is also high. An innate skills shortage is one of the underlying reasons, and the project aimed to reverse this.

The project is funded in part by the European Social Fund and supported by some of the larger retail organisations such as Woolworth, Waitrose, Waterstones and McDonalds (some of whom provide mentoring and free facilities). The scheme offers participants ways to improve their skills, including coaching and mentoring on site, training courses and opportunities to network. People from a number of local traders, including Chivers Brothers, Ellemen, Bike & Run, and East Finchley Electrical Contractors have become involved.

### Bite-sized

The Business Buddies have been engaged in producing promotion flyers, competitor and market segment analysis, producing simple spreadsheets and documents to record and manage business clients, web sites, and computerised book keeping. The emphasis is in 'bite-sized' learning modules that busy traders can reasonably fit in to their schedules, typically two or three hours, at the workplace with the assistance and support of the mentor. There is, also, one to one IT training, on site.

Training courses available locally include Customer Care, Telephone & Listening Skills, First Aid, Health and Safety in



the Workplace, Manual Handling and Fire Training.

Joining the Business Buddy scheme includes membership of the Finchley Local Retail Club, which meets every few months to discuss matters of mutual interest such as supply chain links. There are presentations from local support agencies including, to date, the Met, Town Centre Management, and Streetwise (the clean streets and anti-graffiti campaign). Local businesses present topics of interest, for example DataDepot, who gave an insight into 'micromarketing'.

The project offers access to valuable resources, including support for Human Resourcing issues from Berg Kaprow Lewis, and marketing information from Acorn profiling.

Dino Loizou of East Finchley Electrical Contractors, involved from the start, has been looking at market segment analysis linked to the Acorn research reports, key market targets, designing a flyer, and intends to run a 12 month program to measure impact on sales.

For further information, contact Tracey Anthony-Winter on 07811 378 582, or email [taw@awmail.demon.co.uk](mailto:taw@awmail.demon.co.uk).