



THE ARCHER

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Thank you to Madden's Ale House for providing us with a meeting place.

Your contributions

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

14 January is the copy deadline for the February 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
Cophthall 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
Wamer 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 86687261
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

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE

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

General Advice.
Monday to Friday: 10am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm.
Thursdays: 7pm - 8pm.
Immigration Advice.
Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm by appointment only.
Legal Advice.
Tuesdays: 7pm - 8pm.
Councillors' Surgery.
Saturdays: 10am - 11.30am

**Contact East Finchley's
Community Police Officer,
PC Paul Carter, at
The Community Office,
Golders Green Station,
Tel: 020 8733 5562 or e-mail:
paul.carter@met.police.uk**

Community Services

❖ Credit Union, Green Man Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Careers advice, Green Man, Community Centre 020 8883 4916
❖ Toy library, Muswell Hill 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774

Were YOU Involved?

In February 2003 The Archer celebrates its tenth anniversary. As part of the commemoration of a decade in publishing a free community newspaper for East Finchley, we are seeking to re-establish contact with the many volunteers that have contributed to our success over the years.

If you are, or know of, someone who has been involved with THE ARCHER in any way, please help us by e-mailing the-archer@lineone.net or telephoning us on 08717 334465 and leaving a message, letting us know how we can make contact. Your kind assistance will help us to make our celebrations complete.

Everyone at THE ARCHER would also like to take this opportunity to thank contributors, volunteers, advertisers and readers, past and present for helping to make our modest newspaper such a resounding success.

Cheque it out

by Erini Rodis

One Abbey-Link customer got a little more than she bargained for when she tried to make a deposit last Saturday. Upon request out rolled a deposit envelope, which wouldn't open easily, so another was requested. On closer inspection the original envelope was actually sealed with somebody else's deposited cheque already inside!

When the errant cheque was returned as a matter of lost property, the lady behind the counter assured our source that the cash machine automatically prints account details on the outside of each deposit envelope. As this envelope had no such markings on it, it will have to be assumed that the customer concerned had simply forced it back into the wrong slot!

Others have told stories of cheques going missing in the cash machines of other banks too, with knowledge of such

moneys denied until a member of staff was forced to search for an envelope which had been misdirected by the machine! So how reliable are these machines? A lot of older folk don't trust these new fangled devices, and I'm beginning to agree. Of course they're wonderfully convenient for getting cash out in an emergency, but they're a poor substitute for a real live person behind the counter giving you a receipt for your money - so if you have to use a cash machine, be careful where you put your money!



The doomed phonebox is served notice. Photo by John Dearing.

Triumph of the Mobile Phones

By John Dearing

BT has served notice that one of two telephone boxes located opposite the Phoenix on the High Road, is to be taken out. Inevitably, it is the one that takes coins. The other one has been upgraded to allow people to send e-mails and text messages to mobile phones, but you need to have a phone card or a credit card to use it.

Ten years ago, there would have been an outcry at the loss of a social facility such as this, but these days, with most people owning mobile phones, it is only a minority who would find this a problem. It seems likely that the use of phone boxes has

fallen to the point that it is presumably not economic to provide two call boxes at one location, although this must only encourage more people to acquire mobiles, leading to even less use of phone boxes - a vicious circle.