THE ARCHER

PO Box 3699 London N2 8JA

WWW.THE-ARCHER.CO.UK e-mail: THE-ARCHER@LINEONE.NET

Voicemail & Fax: Editorial/enquiries: -08717 33 44 65

Advertising/finance: -08717 33 45 28

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CHAIR Kevin Finn

COPY EDITOR John Lawrence

EDITORIAL TEAM David Hobbs Daphne Chamberlain Diana Cormack

> **SUB EDITORS** Ann Bronkhorst Wendy Devine Pam Kent

PRODUCTION EDITOR Alison Roberts

PICTURE EDITOR Erini Rodis

ADVERTISING John Dearing

FINANCE Sue Holliday

ADMINISTRATION Toni Morgan

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LEGAL ADVISER Francis Coulson

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Your contributions

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address.

Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked Not for publication 'within the text.

Copy deadlines

November issue: 14 October December issue: 11 November January issue: 16 December

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Admin/Town Hall 020 8359 2000 Council Tax 020 8359 2608 Recycling & refuse 020 8359 4600 Primary Care Trust 020 8201 4700 Benefits Agency 020 8258 6500 ■ Employment Service 020 8258 3900 Haringey Council 020 8489 0000

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121 East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664 Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007 **Phoenix Cinema** 020 8444 6789 Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080 Warner Cinema 020 8446 9933

Transport

BR Enquiries 0845 7484950 City Airport 020 7646 0088 London Transport 020 7222 1234 National Express 08705 808080 **Heathrow Airport** 0870 000 0123

Help & Advice

Childline 0800 1111 Disability Info Service 020 8446 6935 **E.F. Advice Service** 020 8444 6265 **Gingerbread** 020 8445 4227 **National Debt Line** 0808 808 4000 **NSPCC** 0800 800500 Rape & Sexual Abuse 020 8683 3300 Relate 020 8447 8101 08457 909090 Samaritans

Refuge Crisis Line 0870 599 5443

Health Advice

AIDSline 020 8363 2141 Alcoholics Anonymous 0845 7697555 Barnet MENCAP 020 8203 6688 **Cancer Support** 020 8202 2211 Carers' Line 0808 808 7777 Drinkline 0800 917 8282 Drugs Helpline 0800 776600 Health Info Service 0800 665544 020 8343 5700 **National Blood Ctr**. 0845 7 711 7711

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511 Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162 Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Hospitals

Barnet General 020 8216 4000 **Coppetts Wood** 020 8883 9792 Finchley Memorial 020 8349 6300 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

Crime

999 **Emergency** Finchley Police 020 8442 1212 ■ CrimeStoppers 0800 555111 Victim Support 0845 303 0900 E.F. Community Police Officer: PC Paul Carter (Golders Green) Tel: 020 8733 5562, e-mail: paul.carter@met.police.uk

EAST FINCHLE

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

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

Prolific burglar jailed

A prolific burglar who targeted homes in East Finchley was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court on 22 August.

Unemployed Rhys Robins, 34, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to 101 burglary offences committed between October 2003 and December 2004. All the properties Robins burgled were Victorian terraced houses with sash cord windows. DNA evidence linked him to break-ins at East Finchley homes in Park Hall Road, Hamilton Road and Durham Road.

Robins told police he identified empty houses by post left on doormats, and lack of lights at night. He was not put off by alarmed premises if the alarm boxes appeared un-serviced, and would spend several hours inside a house once he had gained entry. He would take suitcases from the property and fill them with the owner's CD and DVD collections, which he would sell at car boot sales during the week. Detective Constable Stephen O'Connell, the officer in charge of the case, said, "Robins was an exceptionally well-organised and professional residential burglar. He was very calculating and planned his offences meticulously.

"He had street maps and sketched layouts of potential target addresses prior to committing offences. He had sewn Velcro to his clothing, which he used to attach torches, screwdrivers and even night vision glasses."

Fraud attempt at cash machine

By John Dearing

The cash machine outside Barclays Bank in the High Road was the subject of an attempted fraud on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday.

A local resident was passing by around midday and saw two men "hanging over"the ATM, with a woman standing behind them, which struck him as odd.

Returning to the machine a few minutes later with the intention of getting some cash, he noticed that the slot for entering cash cards looked different. He pulled on the edge and the whole front came away in his hand.

Not surprisingly, he decided not to make a cash withdrawal, and walked away with what was clearly a device. Two men approached him and one of them, grabbing his arm, said, "I am police, give me". He ignored them and went into a local shop, where the owner called the police. The two men disappeared.

A small video camera was found attached to the cash machine. This was removed and, with the device, taken to Golders Green police station later that afternoon.

The device was extremely well made, and would have easily fooled anyone not alert, which is a warning to us all.

Car scheme abandoned

By Diana Cormack

The two-year government-funded scheme enabling councils to remove abandoned cars is to end. Since it started in September 2003, thousands of vehicles have been cleared away from all over London.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Plan, the Home Office provided boroughs with the money to do this. There was also a free service, which allowed residents to have their unwanted cars collected and disposed of by the council. Funding for this runs out in March 2006.

But while Haringey Council seems unable to afford to continue the service, Barnet is taking a different stance. As well as continuing to deal with

the problem of abandoned cars, the council intends to reduce its target car removal time from 72 to 24 hours.

Phoenix raided

By Paul Chapman The Phoenix cinema in the High Road was raided over the August Bank Holiday. Amongst the items stolen were projection, safe and other equipment valued at around £25,000.

The burglars came prepared with tools to force their way through a side door. Paperwork also went missing and Friends of the Phoenix are advised to contact the cinema at management@ph oenixcinema.co.uk to replace their address details.

Planning Applications

Tarling Road Open Space, Tarling Road, N2

Provision for a floodlit multi-sports pitch and surrounding landscaped recreational area, including timber adventure trail, timber shelter, 3m high fencing to part of Tarling Road, and 2.4m high fence around rest of site.

Lonsdale Care Home, Tarling Road, N2

Demolition of existing building and erection of three-storey building, containing six self-contained flats and 11 two-storey houses with sheds in rear gardens. Provision for 25 car-parking spaces, cycle store and refuse store.

2A Fortis Green, N2

Change of use from MOT car workshop (sui generis) to Gallery (class A1).

23 Fortis Green, N2

Single-storey rear conservatory and enlargement of existing rear dormer. 1A Bedford Road, N2

Change of use from office / store to single family two-bedroom dwelling.

80 Bedford Road, N2 Alterations to roof, including construction of rear dormer extension to rear side roof slope on rear wing.

147 Leslie Road, N2

Retention of a single-storey rear extension.

1 Nursery Road, N2

Alterations to roof, including formation of rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

97 Abbots Gardens, N2

Part single, part two storey side extension and single-storey rear extension.

4 Stanley Road, N2

Use of property as two self-contained

34 Market Place, N2

Roof extension at rear to facilitate loft conversion, including provision of a roof terrace.

44 Oakview Gardens, N2

Erection of a three-storey dwellinghouse attached to 44 Oakview Gardens, following demolition of existing side extension.

Land rear of 332-334 High Road, N2 Demolition of existing store, and erection of a new two-storey building to provide an A1/A2 commercial unit.

29 Manor Park Road, N2

Single-storey side/rear extension.

Beware phone scam

By Diana Cormack

A report has been made to the police about a man who telephones households claiming that he is calling on behalf of BT about an unpaid bill. He says that unless the bill is paid at once by credit card the phone will be cut off.

BT has stated that under no circumstances will they ever phone for a payment. All bills are posted. Do not be taken in if you receive such a call and do not give your credit card details under any such circumstances.