



The Patel family outside the shop. Photo by Sheila Armstrong

Gone but not forgotten

By Sheila Armstrong

The Patel family have had a grocery shop in various premises in East Finchley for 30 years. But now after a hand-over period of a month or so Raj Yesweker will take over their Costcutter shop on the High Road near East Finchley station.

The family have decided to concentrate their energies and talents on their voluntary work at the Hindu temple at Neasden. Many of their customers will join *THE ARCHER* in wishing them luck in their new venture and in wishing Raj well as he takes charge of the business.

In 1975, while they contin-

ued to work for British Telecom and the World Health Organisation respectively, Jagdish and Hasumuck Patel initially took on the shop for their wives to run. At that time their mother, who was blind, lived over the shop and they were able to combine looking after her with running the business.

Both brothers retired about 10 years ago and since then have had more day-to-day hands-on experience in the business. They told *THE ARCHER* that, as their children are grown up now and have chosen careers other than retail, it's time for them to move on.

Rescued trees under threat again

By Daphne Chamberlain

Several beautiful trees, including red maples and a weeping willow, have been saved by residents of the Tarling Road area. Now local people fear that this reprieve might only be temporary if a current planning application goes ahead.

Iayn Clark from Sylvester Road told *THE ARCHER* that local people organised a petition after the first application to develop the former Lonsdale Care Home site in Tarling Road. Those plans would have entailed the destruction of the trees.

Mr Clark said: "We are grateful to Barnet's tree preservation officer, Ann Currell, and senior planner, Martin Westwood, for arranging a preservation order. However, the developer's amended plans are still threatening most of the trees. We know that this beautiful and peaceful piece of East Finchley is going to be built on, but we want it to be as well designed as possible."

The plans are to demolish the existing building (the elderly occupiers being moved to North Finchley), replacing it with 11 houses and six flats. The local action group feel that the development would cram too much housing into too small a space, and sacrificing even one house from the plan would help the

general environment as well as the trees.

In this immediate area, where one extensive new development follows another, residents worry about the inevitable pressure on resources - doctors, dentists, schools, transport, etc.

Not the least of their worries is the sewage problem affecting the neighbouring allotments and one or two of their gardens, reported in *THE ARCHER* last month. They have

warned the developer of this several times.

When told that the developer had visited the allotments, Mr Clark said, "I'm very glad they are taking this seriously. The last thing we want is raw sewage around."



One of the Lonsdale trees. Photo by John Dearing

Stop, go policy

By Diana Cormack

On 25 August, Barnet Council gave notice that the experimental removal of the bus lane running north up the High Road between The Bishops Avenue and the Bald Faced Stag would become permanent.

Road users and residents have the right to question the validity of traffic orders covering this, along with amended waiting and loading restrictions, for up to six weeks after that date.

The bus lane was removed earlier this year because of heavy congestion, particularly during peak travel times, much of which was attributed to the traffic signals at the junction with East End Road and Fortis Green.

Lingwood Court welcomes new residents

By Lucy Chamberlin

The latest High Road development has been completed. Lingwood Court, positioned next to the Methodist Church opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, is set to provide independent living facilities for ten adults with learning disabilities under a Notting Hill Housing Trust scheme.



Cllr Brian Salinger and Chief Executive of Notting Hill Housing Group, Kate Davies declare the building open.

On 1 September, the building was officially opened by Kate Davies, the Chief Executive of Notting Hill Housing Group (which manages nearly 19,000 homes in London), and Councillor Brian Salinger, leader of Barnet council.

New residents and their families and carers, as well as representatives from Barnet Council, the Housing Corporation and NHHT Supported Housing and Care Division attended the event.

Ms Davies said, "The excel-

lent design and services at Lingwood Court will enable our customers there to develop greater confidence and independence and ultimately to live life as they want to, something most of us take for granted."

Residents have been rehoused from existing supported housing schemes within the borough of Barnet, and the move to East Finchley seems somewhat of an upgrade: each of them has a self-contained flatlet with kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom as well as use of a training kitchen, communal lounge and IT suite. The service is staffed from 7.30am-9.30pm daily. Lingwood Court (so called because of its entrance in Norfolk Close, Lingwood being a place in Norfolk) has an attractive aspect inside and out, as natural materials, light and space have been used to advantage. The Housing Corporation has invested £1.5m in the building.

There are plans to open the communal kitchen and especially information technology areas to local residents with similar learning disabilities.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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