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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER



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CARS & COURTIERS

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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Mums and children locked in park after dark

By Diana Cormack

An enjoyable August evening in Cherry Tree Wood ended suddenly for about 30 adults and children when they realised they had been locked in. The park is locked at night by a mobile unit responsible for locking a range of sites in the borough but no one in the park had been warned.

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally park café, left at 7.30pm. She told *THE ARCHER* there were mums with babies in prams, kids on pushbikes and people playing tennis on the courts. She said: "They were apparently locked in there for two hours and kids were screaming because they were tired, hungry and afraid of the dark."

A reader who was one of those locked in at around 8pm contacted *THE ARCHER*. She said they had to call the police four times but despite explaining that children and elderly people were involved they waited until 10pm before getting help from the fire department.

"Whoever locked the gates never came into the park to tell people. Also, we could not see a sign saying what time the park closed," she said.

In the days when Cherry Tree Wood had a park keeper a warning bell was rung at closing time.

Previous signs indicated dusk as locking up time. Recent new signs describe Cherry Tree Wood as a locked park but give no indication of time. Presumably this reflects the nature of the locking up system, which is regarded as erratic by locals. Occasionally the park is open all night and there have been times when morning commuters were met with locked gates.

A Barnet Council spokesman said: "This is an occasion where we have to hold up our hands and apologise for a mistake made by one of our staff. We have spoken to the person concerned to ensure

this will not happen again and we cannot apologise enough to residents who were locked in the park."

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Cecilia on stage as Ivana

Comedy on the High Road

Comedy fans have a treat arriving right on their doorsteps when Cecilia Holmes brings her music and improvisation show to the Finchley Youth Theatre on the High Road.

See page 10 for the full story.

Last chance for *THE ARCHER* Calendar 2010

Have you got a photo that captures something special about life in N2? Well, now's your last chance to send it in for *The Archer* Calendar 2010.

People, places, animals or anything bizarre, we'd love to see them all. Please have a look through your albums or files and dig something out for us.

Twelve of the best will be picked to star in next year's calendar, to go on sale this autumn, and every penny raised will be given to a local charity. Our 2009 calendar raised more

than £2,000 for East Finchley-based neighbourhood charity Contact.

You can send in as many photos as you like. Please email them to the-archer@lineone.net clearly marking the email *Archer Calendar* and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. Closing date is Sunday 20 September. Thanks.



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