



Arts Centre goes up for sale

By Daphne Chamberlain

Following the shock announcement that The Institute has decided to sell its purpose-built Arts Centre behind East Finchley station, principal Joy Solomon told The Archer that anyone thinking about enrolling at the Centre should go ahead, as its immediate future is safe.

Ms Solomon said that The Institute had been blessed with a beautiful building, but the building itself is not vital. What is important is the quality of tuition and provision, but obviously the ideal solution would be to lease the premises back from the buyer. The Institute want to talk to a variety of organisations representing different interests; Joy Solomon is already in dialogue with one or two of them.

The Institute is an associated college of Middlesex University, and also a registered charity. Ms Solomon told us that she is in discussion with other colleges, and that charities often help each other, for example in developing bids together. She said the future includes working along these lines. Sponsorship and patronage are also very much appreciated.

Staying in the area
If The Institute does have

to find other premises eventually, it intends to stay in North London. 75% of its current 6,000 members come from outside the original Hampstead Garden Suburb area, but Ms Solomon is committed to staying reasonably close to its roots.

The Arts Centre, in Beaumont Close, was opened almost five years ago, and is a great success with students. Unfortunately, it was enormously expensive to build and install. Ironically, the level of debt three years ago was four times higher than now, but The Institute is still under great financial pressure. Ms Solomon said, "It has been a difficult year globally, and the timescale of the banks makes it harder. However, we are not in the position of Greece! Continuity of provision is our primary objective".

Joy Solomon can be contacted at joy.solomon@hgsi.ac.uk

Warning after cat is shot with air gun

By Janet Maitland

A cat called Molly was shot with an air gun on 30 October somewhere in the vicinity of Chandos Road.

Molly's owners came home to find her seriously distressed and bleeding and had to take her to the emergency vet.

An X-ray revealed an air gun pellet lodged deep inside her, about 1cm from her spine. The timing of the shooting was sometime between 11am and 1pm.

"If the gun had been shot from any closer range it would certainly have killed her," said the owners, who asked not to be named. "There's still a chance that the pellet will cause an infection, but the vet said that as it is so close to her spine, removing it might be more risky than leaving it where it is."

The owners, who have had to pay £700 in vet bills, are keeping Molly inside while she recovers

but they're terrified of this happening again when eventually she wants to go outside.

"She may not be so lucky next time. We have always felt that Chandos Road is a very safe place to have a cat as there is so much space for her to roam but it isn't as safe a neighbourhood as we thought.

"There are sick people around who think it's acceptable to shoot a cat. You don't need a licence to own an air gun but they can be the cause of fatal incidents, not only to animals but to people too."

If you have any information that would help the police track down the perpetrator, call them on 101. If you want to remain anonymous, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Archer Calendar 2012 on sale now

Don't miss out on your copy of The Archer Calendar 2012, this year in an all-new slim-line format with plenty of space to scribble birthdays, appointments and important notes.

The calendar features 12 fun and fascinating pictures of games and activities in East Finchley and for just £5 it makes the ideal Christmas present for friends and family, or just for yourself. Every penny raised goes to support the work of Age UK Barnet at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2.

Buy it from Coral's the

chemist in East End Road, or any of these outlets in the High Road: Budgens, Black Gull Bookshop, Cherry Tree Gift Shop, East Finchley Electrical, Kokos, Mulberry Court, Stewart Duncan Opticians and Tony's Continental.

Alternatively, use the order form on page 11. Delivery is free to your door or any address in the UK or Europe.



Julia Hines's photo of a low-impact exercise class at Age UK Barnet's centre in Oak Lane, N2, is in our 2012 calendar.

Here, Lisa Dubow, Age UK Barnet development manager, explains how money raised from the calendar will be used for the benefit of East Finchley's older residents.

Last year East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact merged with Age UK Barnet and the services continue to run with us. Many older local residents depend on these services, which include two lunch clubs, gardening, a shopping bus and a transport and escort service.

Volunteers from the local community play a central role in delivering many of these services: cooking and serving food at the lunch clubs, driving older people to appointments in their own cars and taking them on public transport to appointments. Without these volunteers, the service would not reach as far into the local community as it does.

Mark Robinson, chief officer at Age UK Barnet, says

"I am extremely pleased that the ARCHER's readers will be supporting the work of Age UK Barnet in the East Finchley area. It is wonderful to see the East Finchley community working together to produce the calendar and use it to raise money to benefit local people."

For more information about services, including costs, or to volunteer to help, please call Amanda Radonich on 020 8432 1415.



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