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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

New hope for the Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

THE ARCHER has been reporting for four years now on the fight to restore the Old Barn in Tarling Road to the local community.

There is a new impetus in the battle with the appointment by Barnet Council of Mobilise Public Ltd to help local people shape the kinds of facilities they want from the centre. Mobilise is a "social purpose business" that works with local people, organisations and councils to find ways of providing better services for the community. "We come with a track record of enabling local people to shape successful services," said Avis Johns from Mobilise.

Services and classes close

Until the current trustees took over the Old Barn in 2010, the community centre had run pioneering services for children and young people for over 25 years. These services were discontinued under the new management and the Old Barn now provides no services at all.

A nursery was opened in December 2012, but it was closed down by Ofsted in July for failing to provide safe childcare. At the same time, dance and martial arts classes had to stop because the teachers, who were not informed of Ofsted's concerns, had sublet

the premises from the nursery.

Charity Commission to act

The Charity Commission told **THE ARCHER** in April that in their view the current Old Barn trustees were not validly appointed in the first place.

"The Charity Commission has been considering what action might be appropriate and it's hoped that their decision will be finalised by the autumn," said Ms Johns. "They are considering a number of options, all with the aim of ensuring an open membership drive and a fair Annual General Meeting to elect trustees."

Local campaigner Helen Drake said: "At long last the Charity Commission appear to be taking action and I hope it will not be too long before the Old Barn is returned to the community."

Mobilise is keen to hear from local people and groups who might be interested in becoming involved in the future of the Old Barn. All suggestions are welcome and more information is available at <http://mobilise.org/old-barn>.



Photo by Mike Coles

The unveiling of the Spike Milligan statue at Stephens House with Maureen Lipman, Jeffrey Holland, Roy Hudd, Kathy Lette, Lynsey De Paul, Neil Pearson, Sir Michael Parkinson, The Mayor of Barnet, Dennis Norden, Terry Gilliam and sculptor John Somerville. Turn to the back page for more.

Three arrested in 'heroin handover'

By Diana Cormack

Three men were arrested in Tarling Road, N2, on Sunday 14 September as they allegedly handed over a consignment of heroin with an estimated street value of £9.5million.

The arrests came at the end of a pro-active operation by the Metropolitan Police Service. Detectives had tracked a Mercedes car to Tarling Road, where the male driver met an Audi car and a white van. Police watched as the driver allegedly removed two black holdalls from the car and put them into the van.

This was when they stepped

in and arrested the three men involved in the exchange. They were a 33-year-old, a 36-year-old and a 48-year-old. The holdalls allegedly contained 40kg of heroin.

During a second drugs raid at an address in north London another two kilos of heroin and about £10,000 in cash were found.

Bus diversions

Eagle-eyed commuters might have noticed that we currently have an extra bus service running through East Finchley.

The 134 is being diverted up the High Road whilst Colney Hatch Lane is closed for major roadworks. The works are scheduled to last until 7 November, resulting in several bus routes being diverted, as follows:

- **134** - will run directly from Highgate up Great North Road/High Road, then via the North Circular Road to re-join its original route at Tesco, Colney Hatch.
- **234** - diverted away from Pages Lane to run via Tetherdown and Queens Avenue. There will be extra buses on this route to compensate for the lack of buses on Colney Hatch Lane.
- **102** - diverted between Muswell Hill and Bounds Green to run via Alexandra Palace (until 25 October).
- **43** - now terminating at Muswell Hill

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