



THE ARCHER

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Comments to THE ARCHER may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Councils

Barnet

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

Leisure

Alexandra Palace 020 8365 2121
East Finchley Library 020 8883 2664

Gt North Leisure Park 0870 240 6020
Muswell Hill Odeon 0870 505 0007

Phoenix Cinema 020 8444 6789
Tourist Info Service 0870 128 8080

Warner Cinema Village 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

Cruse Bereavement Care 0870 167 1677

Disability Info Service 020 8359 7637
EF Advice Service 020 8444 6265

Lone Parent Centre 020 7021 4146
Missing Persons Helpline 0500 700700

National Debt Line 0808 808 4000
NSPCC 0800 800500

Rape & Sexual Abuse helpline 020 8683 3300

Relate 020 8447 8101
Samaritans 08457 909090

Refuge National 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

MIND 020 8343 5700

National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711

Crime

Emergency 999

Police non-emergency 101

CrimeStoppers 0800 555111

Victim Support 0845 303 0900

Hospitals

NHS 111

Barnet General 020 8216 4000

Coppetts Wood 020 8883 9792

Edgware General 020 8952 2381

Finchley Memorial 020 8349 7500

Oak Lane Clinic 020 8346 9343

Royal Free 020 7794 0500

St Luke's 020 8219 1800

Whittington 020 7272 3070

Western Eye Hospital 020 7886 6666

OAP's Advice

Barnet Age Concern 020 8346 3511

Contact (N2) 020 8444 1162

Independent Age 0800 319 6789

Help the Aged 0808 800 6565

Campaigning lawyers

Two local lawyers have been honoured for the leading roles they have played in the Save UK Justice campaign to prevent cuts to the legal aid system.

Jonathan Black, from East Finchley, and Paul Harris, from Finchley, were jointly awarded the title of Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year. They have been instru-



Out in front: Lawyers Paul Harris and Jonathan Black.

mental in fighting austerity cuts to the system, including organising public rallies and strike action in courts across the country.

Jonathan is president of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors Association, and Paul is a former president of the same association. Both men write weekly blogs about the campaign and can be followed on Facebook and Twitter at Save UK Justice.

Leisure centre

re-think

Residents are being asked for their views on proposals to rebuild Barnet Copthall and Church Farm leisure centres at a cost of £23million.

The council says Church Farm and Barnet Copthall are its oldest leisure centres and require immediate investment to bring them up to modern standards.

Barnet Copthall leisure centre would be replaced with a brand new building nearby with better swimming facilities as well as a larger gym and studio space.

Church Farm would be moved to a larger site nearby, either Danegrove Playing Field in East Barnet or Victoria Recreation Ground in New Barnet.

To maintain the continuity of service both the existing leisure centres would remain open while the new facilities were being built.

The consultation runs from now until 23 September. Residents are being asked to share their views on these proposals by completing an online questionnaire which can be found at engage.barnet.gov.uk or by picking up a paper copy from Church Farm, Copthall, Finchley Lido, Burnt Oak and Hendon leisure centres as well as the council's libraries.

A1 accident witness appeal

Police are appealing for witnesses to a fatal collision, which occurred on the A1 Falloden Way, near the junction with Addison Way, early on the morning of Wednesday 15 July.

A 45-year-old man, reported to be the driver of a red 'old-style' BMW 318, was taken to hospital where he later died from his injuries, after his car collided with a lamppost. No other vehicles are believed to have been involved.

The A1 was closed in both directions for several hours

following the crash, whilst an investigation took place, causing traffic chaos in much of the surrounding area.

Anyone who saw the car travelling north on Falloden Way at around 5.20am should call the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 020 8991 9555.

- Beginners -

Tai Chi & Qigong

** NEW COURSES ** in East Finchley

Wednesday mornings (Trial session: £5)

James Drowe is a qualified teacher and has been practising tai chi for 40 years. He is the author of 3 books on tai chi & is a member of the BCCMA.

Other classes : www.taiji.co.uk

email: james@taiji.co.uk phone: 020-8883 3308

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Watchdog finds holes in dentistry services

Research carried out by Healthwatch Barnet, the local health and social care watchdog, has shown that access to NHS Dentistry in the borough still needs to be substantially improved.

In a mystery shopping survey of 50 dental practices, Healthwatch Barnet found that over half of practices were not accepting new NHS adult patients and just under half were not accepting new children as patients.

This contrasts sharply with the fact that over 90% of the practices were accepting both adult and children as new private patients.

Funding frozen

Healthwatch Barnet spokesperson Mike Rich said: "The problem is not with capacity but with the fact that in spite of an increasingly growing population, there has not been any increase in funding for NHS Dental Services in the borough for 10 years."

Access to dental appointments was not the only problem. Many practices did not

have information on costs of treatment on display and not all surgeries agreed a treatment plan before treatment was offered.

But it is not all doom and gloom: 82% of people recently report having had a good experience of local NHS dental services in Barnet according to a NHS England patient survey.

Recommendations

Healthwatch Barnet recommended that urgent consideration needs to be given to the amount of funding available for NHS Dentistry in Barnet and clear information about costs should be readily available to all patients when they attend a dental appointment. All patients should receive a clear written treatment plan, including costs, before any treatment is started.

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