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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER



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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



Library lovers flood the library for a read-in. Photo Mike Coles

## Surgery photo

All patients who use the soon-to-close GP surgery on the High Road are invited to take part in a group photo at the practice on Friday 27 March at 1pm. The photo will mark the passing of the surgery and its role as a social hub.

## Meditation

The EFAB Meditation group meets on Monday mornings from 9.30am to 10.30am to meditate together and share experiences.

They have now moved the sessions to the upstairs hall at East Finchley Library. Contact [laura@createyouridealfuture.com](mailto:laura@createyouridealfuture.com) or call 07976 511506 if you want to go along.

# Mass read-in shows how much library is loved

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Our threatened library was packed with supporters last month for a Saturday afternoon read-in, organised by the East Finchley Library Users Group (EFLUG). "What a fantastic turn-out!" said the group's Polly Napper.**

Library manager Sim Branaghan was also really impressed, but had a clear message for us all. "If you care about your library, turn up and use it. The only people who can save the libraries are you. Use

it or lose it."

Polly followed this up later by urging us all to rediscover borrowing. You may love your library, and use it for reference or other facilities, but if you haven't used your card for

three years your membership will lapse, and you will not be included in Barnet's count of branch members. She said, "If, like me, your home is overflowing with books you've read but have no space to store, think before buying that book online. Why not borrow it instead, and thus support and even contribute to a resource available to the whole community."

On Tuesday 3 March, Barnet was due to hold its crucially important budget meeting for the coming financial year. Because of the wonderful response to the 38 Degrees petition to save our libraries (over 8,000 signatures at the time of writing, in mid-February,) lead petitioner Alasdair Hill will have five minutes to ask the Council to reconsider its plans.

The public consultation into the council's library plans closed on 22 February and the latest news we have is that Barnet's final proposals will not be announced before June.

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