



Charlotte Newland at the sewing machine. Photo Mike Coles

Charlotte is Queen Bee

Congratulations to Charlotte Newland, who was crowned the champion of the BBC's Great British Sewing Bee when the series came to an end at the start of July.

In a hard-fought contest, East Finchley resident Charlotte, 43, triumphed in the grand final by impressing the judges in a set of evening wear challenges: an

evening shirt with pin tucks, a cocktail dress and a full-length evening dress.

Afterwards the mother-of-three and former medical jour-

nal editor said: "What a ride! I'm celebrating with lemon meringue for breakfast. I'm a bit sad it's all over."

Man charged with rape

A 23-year-old man has been charged with raping a young woman on Long Lane, N3, in the early hours of Saturday 11 June. Ricky Otusi, of no fixed abode, was charged with rape and aggravated robbery and was remanded to appear at

a crown court on 5 August. The police informed *THE ARCHER* that he was also charged with assaulting a police officer.

The alleged rape happened in the early hours of the morning on Long Lane near the junction with Vines Avenue, opposite Victoria Park.

Woman attacked near cinema complex

By Janet Maitland
A young woman was attacked and raped as she walked close to the Vue Cinema and David Lloyd Leisure site in North Finchley. She was pushed to the ground in Leisure Way by two men who dragged her onto an area of grass. One of the men then raped her.

The victim, who is in her late teens, was attacked between 11.45pm on Wednesday 6 July and 12.30am on Thursday 7 July. Police officers set up a tent and combed the area for forensic evidence.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation should call police on 101 quoting reference 2416009/16. To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Don't mess

Barnet Council has launched a crackdown on dog owners who allow their pets to foul public areas.

Notices have appeared in the Long Lane and Grange area of East Finchley warning that owners who fail to clear up after their dogs will face prosecution. The council says it was driven to take action after a significant increase in fouling in the area.

Fortismere expansion set to ease pressure on school places

By Neil McNaughton

Fortismere School in Muswell Hill has announced plans to expand the size of its intake in years seven, eight and nine to 270 pupils per year, to be spread in slightly enlarged class sizes of 27 for key stage 3. The increase will take place in September this year.

The school cites its high level of oversubscription and the shortage of secondary places in the area as the reasons for the decision. It says it will protect smaller class sizes for vulnerable groups in spite of the expansion.

The increased intake in years eight and nine is a surprise addition to the increase in year seven already announced. Places in years eight and nine will be filled by pupils still on waiting lists and by other applicants who can apply for admission through Haringey.

Although most of Fortismere's catchment area lies in N10, there will be some extra places for pupils living on the eastern side of East Finchley who are in the school's catchment.

New schools for Barnet

Meanwhile, in Barnet there are plans for a new free school in the near future, under the auspices of North Finchley's successful Compton Academy in Summers Lane, which, if they come to fruition, will further ease the pressure on places.

As yet it is not known where any new free school might be located but several possible sites are under consideration. This is in addition to plans being considered by Saracens Rugby club for a new school, though the latter are more likely to set up in the north of the borough.

The general shortage of secondary school places in N2, N3 and NW10 was highlighted earlier this year during the consultation over the admissions policy of the Archer Academy in East Finchley.



One careful owner: The Institution's home since 1839

Language courses... and more

A new autumn range of courses has been announced by the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution which is in South Grove, Highgate, facing Pond Square.

Its popular language courses now provide for a wider progression of levels, with Italian now being available in four classes from beginners to advanced conversation. The other language courses are French, German, Spanish and a particular favourite, Latin for Pleasure.

Richard de Friend, the Chairman of the Education Committee, said: "We are very aware of the concerns which have arisen following the departure from Hampstead Garden Suburb and subsequent difficulties of the much-loved Institute.

"We are very proud of the quality of courses and lectures which we can offer

at the HLSI. While we cannot match the full range of courses which the Institute once provided, we hope that some of our offering will appeal to nearby residents and fill some gaps."

The HLSI is easily accessible by public transport with the regular 143 bus service from East Finchley stopping only a few yards away. Courses at the HLSI are open to anybody although members receive reduced rates.

The Institution has been in the same building since 1840. New members are welcome, as is anyone who just wants to look round the facilities. Further information can be found at www.HLSI.net.

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