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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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CARS & COURIERS

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

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

THE ARCHER team wishes all our readers, deliverers and advertisers a very happy Christmas. We hope a peaceful and prosperous 2017 lies ahead for us all.



### Still waiting on the platform

East Finchley band Sound of the Suburb release their second album Still Waiting this month after a turbulent four years. Read the full story on page 6.

## Hours, books and space all cut at library

By Daphne Chamberlain

Now we know what is in store for East Finchley Library. After more than two years of uncertainty over cost-cutting proposals, Barnet Council representatives visited last month to reveal their plans for the future of the Grade 2 listed building in the High Road and the library service so valued by our community.

#### Building changes

After next April, the existing computer room at the front of the library will become an area available for commercial use, as will the whole of the upper floor. Everywhere else is retained for library use.

There was confusion on the evening the plans were revealed as Barnet Council website diagrams on display were indicating this change correctly while accompanying text stated that the children's library would also be lost. I queried this, and, after a check, was told that the text

was wrong. The information was obviously printed from the Barnet Council website, but when I checked the site three days later the mistake had not been corrected.

As the building is Grade 2 listed, including the built-in book stacks and the counter, very few structural alterations can be made. Computers will be moved out of the front room and into the main body of the library, and the second of the two rooms opposite the children's library will be opened up.

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## Shop for Christmas in N2

Don't forget to put on your winter woollies and go out for the late-night Christmas shopping extravaganza along the High Road on the evening of Thursday 15 December.

As we reported last month, it will be a chance to do some relaxed shopping, enjoy lots of treats and experience a warm

welcome from shops, cafes and restaurants, as well as witnessing the unveiling of the East Finchley Christmas tree.

Hilary Townley, one of the organisers, said: "We have had a fantastic response from the High Road. Everyone has agreed to join in the fun and do something special. There'll be singing and music, mini-plays and freebies, food and drink, make-your-own decorations, local merchandise and local artists, a festive trail for children and plenty of surprises.

#### Challenge

"We have a challenge for East Finchley! See if you can do ALL of your Christmas shopping along the High Road on 15 December from 4pm to 8pm. Please put it in your diary and come along."

And if you can't make it on the night all traders and businesses in N2, including those in East End Road, Church Lane and Fortis Green, will appreciate your support throughout the festive season and beyond.



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