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THE ARCHER

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Published by East Finchley Newspapers Copy Editor John Lawrence **Production Editor**

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Printed By

Sharman & Co Ltd

Thank you to The Bald Faced Stag and New Local Cafe for providing us with a

THE ARCHER team wishes to thank all the generous people who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

If you have a story for us, please contact us at the above address. Comments to The Archer may be published unless clearly marked 'Not for publication' within the text.

January: 16 December; February: 13 January; Copy deadlines -March: 10 February

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** 020 8489 0000 Leisure Alexandra Palace

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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 **RSPCA** 0300 1234 999 08457 909090 Samaritans Refuge National Crisis Line

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

0800 776600 Drugs Helpline 0800 665544 Health Info Service 020 8343 5700 MIND National Blood Centre 0845 7711 7711 Crime Emergency 999 Police non-emergency 101 CrimeStoppers 0800 555111 Victim Support 0845 303 0900 Hospitals NHS Barnet General 020 8216 4000 **Edgware General** 020 8952 2381 020 8349 7500 Finchley Memorial 020 8346 9343 Oak Lane Clinic 020 7794 0500 **Royal Free**

Whittington OAP's Advice

St Luke's

020 7272 3070 020 8203 5040 Age UK Barnet 0800 319 6789 Independent Age Age UK (general advice line) 0800 169 2081

Help with welfare reform

Families affected by the latest welfare reform changes are being encouraged to get in touch with **Barnet Council's Welfare Reform Task Force.**

A new lower benefit cap was introduced in November, reducing the annual amount that households in London can receive from benefits from £26,000 per year to £23,000. Two new exemptions have been introduced for certain carers and guardians.

The changes will come into effect from Monday 2 January, 2017. It is anticipated the lower benefit cap will affect around 1,000 households in Barnet.

Affected households are advised to contact the Welfare Reform Task Force on 020 8359 2442 or email welfarereformtaskforce@barnet. gov.uk for jobs, housing and financial support.

Admissions to the Archer Academy

We reported in October that the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator had reviewed the Archer Academy's revised admissions system and ruled that it was unfair to children in N2. This was not accurate as the report stated that the new criteria were not unfair to N2 children.

As paragraph 86 of the report states: "I do not find the arrangements are unfair to children living in N2 and do not uphold those parts of the objections which suggest they are."

Sanjay Maraj, chair of the Archer Academy Trust, said: "The adjudicator summed up the various matters mentioned in the report in his conclusion, saying that in order to set arrangements which provide a balance between the interests of children living in all three postcodes, the trust will need to consult on a fair mechanism of serving N3 and NW11 as well as N2.

"In accordance with the OSA ruling, the Trust will be consulting in the next few months to address the matters raised in the report."

The full report can be accessed at: http://thearcheracademy.org.uk/consultation/

Strawberry Vale action delayed

As reported last month, solicitors have applied for a Group Litigation Order allowing 54 Strawberry Vale residents to claim compensation from the Peabody Trust Housing Association, in respect of their loss of gas supply last winter.

At the court hearing in October, the judge asked for some changes and the request was scheduled to be heard again on 25 November, shortly after this edition went to press.

Library cuts

0870 599 5443

Continued from front page:

The staff quarters opposite the counter will also be remodelled. This part of the building contains the fire escape, which will be extended to the first floor, and will have a ramp. There will also be additional toilets, as the existing ladies' toilet is upstairs.

Smaller range of books

We should also remember that there will be a cutback in stock. As a Core library, East Finchley will house only 'popular' books. Library users will need to make reservations for any other titles.

Opening hours

The library will be open, although not to everyone, from 7am until 10pm on weekdays and from 7am until 5pm on Saturdays.

However, it will be staffed for only a small proportion of these hours. Staff will be in the building from 9am to 12.30pm on Mondays and Saturdays, 2pm to 8pm on Wednesdays and 2pm to 5pm on Thursdays, that is for only 16 out of 85 hours. There are plans for volunteers to be present for three hours on Tuesdays and Fridays, but these have not yet been confirmed.

During unstaffed times, access will be by a registered PIN number. Apart from officially exempted Year 11 students, nobody under 16 will be allowed in unaccompanied. This means that visits by unaccompanied children will be restricted to Saturday mornings and for different periods of time after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays, plus Monday mornings in school holidays. This is in spite of the fact that Core libraries are intended to give special service to children and senior citizens.

Next steps

These plans, due for approval last month, go to committee probably in February. The book stock is expected to be shifted in March, and closures for building works are expected from April to June. We will keep you up to date in future editions.

In the meantime, please let us know what you think of these library changes and we will print as many opinions as possible. *Email us at the-archer@lineone.* net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London, N2 2DE.

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Planning Applications

Barnet Council 23 Chandos Road, N2

Roof extension, involving hip and gable, rear dormer window, two front roof lights. New side window. Facilitating loft conversion.

45 Chandos Road, N2 Wheelchair lift to front garden.

26A Church Lane, N2 Erection of house, following removal of enclosed storage area.

3 Durham Road, N2 Roof extension, involving rear dormer, to facilitate loft conver-

sion. 10 Durham Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer with juliette balcony and side window, to facilitate loft

conversion. 35 Heath View, N2

Single storey rear extension. Depth 4.65 m. Eaves height 3 m. Maximum height 3m.

60 Hertford Road, N2

Roof extension, involving rear dormer with juliette balcony, to facilitate loft conversion.

320 - 322 High Road, N2

Use of roof space as selfcontained flat.

425A Long Lane, N2

Additional storey over existing offices, to create one selfcontained flat. Associated cycle store, refuse and recycling store. 12 Oakview Gardens, N2

First floor side extension.

34 Oakview Gardens, N2

Single-storey rear extension. Three storey side extension. Ossulton Way/ East End Road junction, N2 Removal of public payphone.

1 Vale Close, N2 Single storey rear extension.

Haringey Council 50 Eastern Road, N2

Single-storey rear extension. **Outside Linksview, Great North** Road, N2

Removal of BT phone box. 4 Ringwood Avenue, N2

Single-storey rear extension. 19 Ringwood Avenue, N2 Rear extension, loft conversion,

first floor front/side extension. Conversion of garage to habitable room.