



Now children must pay fines on library books

By Daphne Chamberlain
Library changes have already started, as the service moves into a new phase.

Fines and renewals

There are now overdue fines for children's and teenagers' loans at 5p an item, per day. Adult fines have risen from 20p to 25p per item, per day.

Commenting that books and other items can be renewed online, by phone and in person, Councillor Reuben Thompson, chair of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, said that library fines act as a deterrent against late return, helping to ensure that the stock is available to as many people as possible.

Unfortunately, in libraries such as East Finchley, where unaccompanied under-15s will not be allowed for long stretches in the week, personal renewal will not always be easy. It means that these young people, including older primary school children, will be very dependent on co-operative and concerned adults.

Again obviously addressing problems caused by stock reduction, Cllr Thompson announced that the £1 reservation charge for items already held in Barnet libraries has been scrapped.

Planning application

Also last month the application was submitted for part change of use, plus associated minor external alterations, to East Finchley Library. The loss of the computer room and the

upstairs floor will provide 193 sqm of office floor space.

Details of the application can be seen on www.barnet.gov.uk, using the reference 16/7700/FUL or PP-05669012. It was received on 2 December, and at the time of writing is pending consideration.

It's interesting to see that the average bus journey time from the library to East Finchley station is given as 30 minutes!

Partnership libraries

From 1 April, four of Barnet's libraries will be run by partnership. Kisharon, in partnership with Mencap, will operate Child's Hill; NW7 Hub will run Mill Hill; and Inclusion Barnet will operate both East Barnet and South Friern libraries.

Under a 10-year agreement, Barnet will lease these libraries to the partners and provide equipment, book stock, and a grant for running costs. The grant will be £35,000 in the first year, £28,000 in the second year and £25,000 per year after that. The partners will manage and develop the service, mainly with volunteers.

The libraries will be open for a minimum of 15 hours per week, but with a view to longer hours and additional services over time. They are currently 'preferred' partners. They will not become full partners until contracts are signed and they have started to deliver the service.



Anniversary for Ann Owens

Twenty five years ago last November the Duchess of Kent and local MP Margaret Thatcher were guests of honour at the opening of the Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane, N2. All these years on, the building is still

busy as a social and care centre for older people, including exercise, IT help, art classes, tea dances and games, now run by Age UK Barnet. The visitors are pictured here with the charity's Paddy Costello.

School finds new path for sixth form

By Neil McNaughton
East Finchley's Archer Academy has reached an agreement with Woodhouse, the highly successful sixth form college in North Finchley, to accept its year 11 pupils after they have taken their GCSEs.

The arrangement means that all Archer Academy pupils who reach Woodhouse's standard entry requirements will be given priority admission to study their A-levels there.

Announcing the partnership, the academy's head-teacher Lucy Harrison said she estimated that about 120 of its current 150 pupils per year would be eligible to take up places at Woodhouse in the future. Woodhouse College has an annual intake of 700, which is always heavily oversubscribed, so the contribution from the academy would make up a considerable proportion of the available places.

The Archer Academy had hoped to open its own sixth form, but when this became problematic, the partnership with Woodhouse College proved to be the perfect solution, Lucy Harrison said.

Woodhouse principal John

Rubinstein added that there would also be opportunities for wider co-operation between pupils and also staff at the two establishments. Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer backed the partnership at a special launch event.

Can you deliver?

The Archer needs volunteers to deliver papers to Ludlow Way, Ossulton Way, Maurice Walk, Blandford Close, Cornwood Close, Greenhalgh Walk and part of Lyttelton Road.

Papers are brought to your house each month and these rounds typically take 30-40 minutes. Please contact us by email at the-archer@lineone.net or by phone on 0800 612 0748. Thank you.

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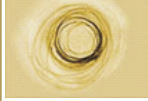
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