



Readers, rejoice! Bookcase is back at Tube station

By John Lawrence

Five months after the community bookcase was removed from the foyer of East Finchley Tube station under orders from London Fire Brigade, a new version was installed last month and books were being swapped again.



Swap stop: The new metal bookcase is in position at the tube station

The removal of the original wooden bookcase in March caused uproar amongst commuters and readers in N2 and across London where other bookcases were also suddenly scrapped. Transport for London said at the time that they were acting on warnings from the London Fire Brigade that the wooden shelves could be considered a fire hazard, particularly for sub-surface stations. East Finchley, of course, is entirely above ground. Finchley and Golders Green MP Sarah Sackman and London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan were among those who objected to the removal of the popular book swaps and called for their reinstatement.

The Archer received letters of protest from readers. Many pointed out that piles of Metro newspapers stacked just a couple of metres away from the bookcase should also have been considered a fire hazard.

Lockable metal

Transport for London said

almost immediately that it was working to source new metal versions with lockable front covers, which they said would meet fire regulations. East Finchley was expected to receive its new case in June but it wasn't until the middle of August that it was finally installed, when its shelves were soon stocked with paperbacks and hardbacks again.

The Archer team member Lynn Winton, who established the original bookcase eight years ago, said: "I'm relieved we have a community bookcase in the station again, even if it is a rather unlovely metal one to replace the previous iteration which was solid wood and perfectly complemented the station architecture. But this change was deemed necessary by the powers that be.

"I'm glad we can go back to swapping our books, knowing they are being re-read, re-purposed and re-enjoyed. And there's now a place for me to leave copies of The Archer once again."



Over and out: Members of the N2 Cricket Club say farewell at their final match this summer

Cricket club ups stumps after 43 years in the field

By Nick Young

After 43 years of cricketing in the London area, N2 Cricket Club played its last matches this summer, and finished in style with well-earned victories over two long-term opponents.

N2CC, a Sunday casual side established in 1982 by (among others) members of the local Labour Party and quite possibly the only cricket club to be named after a postcode, has struggled to field a full XI at matches in recent years even after significantly reducing the fixture list.

At their AGM last winter the

cricketers decided to bow out with two final matches against their Mill Hill Village and Old Merchant Taylors.

Both fixtures saw N2CC not only victorious but at full strength as a few old members turned out to help bid the club farewell, with club president Dave Newbery coming on to bowl the first two deliveries of

the last match. Such was the convivial atmosphere, a reunion match next year was suggested.

After a warm afternoon in the field, N2CC were set a target of 151 by the hosts Old Merchant Taylors. As the sun set, our batsmen successfully chased that target down to ensure that the final entry in the scorebook was a win by four wickets.

Scout group appeals for volunteers to help out



Outdoor adventures: The Air Scouts enjoy cooking at camp

A local Scout group is looking for enthusiastic adults to join its volunteer team and help run fun, adventurous sessions for children aged six to ten, including games, crafts, outdoor adventures and community projects.

Derek Chambers, group lead volunteer at 224 North London Air Scouts, based in Sheldon Avenue, N6, says: "As a volunteer, you'll help plan and deliver sessions, support young

people to learn new skills, and be part of a friendly, supportive team. You don't need previous experience – just a sense of fun and a willingness to get involved. "Whether you can give an hour a week, help at events, or lend a hand behind the scenes, your time will make a real difference." Find out more at www.224northlondonscouts.org.uk and contact Derek on 07707 763344 or del@224northlondonscouts.org.uk



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