

MULBERRY
ESTATE & LETTING AGENTS

A multiple agency instruction with our company for a sole agency fee.

- ◆ Three strategically located offices.
- ◆ Extensive experience of the locality.
- ◆ Free evaluation without obligation.

East Finchley
020 8444 4000

Muswell Hill Alexandra Park
020 8444 9000 020 8889 4322
www.mulberryestateagents.com

Local News Is Our Aim

THE ARCHER



GLH

CAR SERVICE
020 8883 5000

September 2003 No. 124 **20p**
ISSN 1361-3952 where sold

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Library gets Grade 2 Listing

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley library was given Grade 2 listed status on 18 August, following a request from a local resident. This means that any alteration to the building must preserve its character and be approved by English Heritage. The building now has legal protection, but can still be refurbished. (Hendon Central Library, already listed, is currently being adapted by Barnet Council.)

Missing our Opportunity?

Consultation on the future of the library is starting this month, but several local architects and designers believe that we are not being given a proper choice. They support the option of refurbishing the existing library, but believe that the

Council's proposals do not go far enough. Although they have offered to meet Barnet Council representatives, and have asked that their proposals should be exhibited along with those from the Council, their requests have been refused.

James Elliott, an architectural design director, told *THE*

ARCHER, "My job is converting buildings, and the existing library has great potential. We have an opportunity to refurbish a building we can take pride in, as opposed to building a new one, of mediocre quality, on a low budget. We were reassured by the Council's report that the building is structurally sound. This means we could actually enlarge the library, at a cost which would be covered by the sale of Park House."

Speaking to *THE ARCHER*, Tricia Little, Lead Officer for Libraries confirmed that Barnet Council was not offering the option of extending the building. When told that selling Park House would cover the cost of implementing local architects' plans, she said she could not possibly comment. See page 6 for the alternative plans.



Here to stay? East Finchley Library. Photo by Erini Rodis

Development Threat for Stanley Road Fields

By Diana Cormack

The fears of many local people have come to fruition with the news that Barnet Council is casting its money-hungry eyes on the Stanley Road Playing Fields. Depressingly out of condition through lack of upkeep, the word 'field' bears little relation to the area where play has long since stopped, except if you happen to be a dog out for exercise, and even then only if you want to risk catching mange.

Youth centre to close

Also threatened is the Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre, whose imminent closure is understood to have caused the borough "to look at what

opportunities may be available to make best use of the property assets in this locality".

This news came as a shock to Linda Clark, who runs an After School Club there, which is attended by primary school children from all over East Finchley. When she learned about it from a council official, Linda argued that these children were part of the youth of the area. But it appears that they come under the "early years" category, not "youth". Linda was doubly upset as she was told just before the summer holidays, leaving her no time to inform the parents who really need this service and to involve them in some form of protest. However, meetings are being organised for September, though Linda is still uncertain as to whether she can continue to use the Wilmot Centre.

Continued on page 2

Everything Electrical

ALL DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK UNDERTAKEN BY QUALIFIED ELECTRICIANS

Extra Sockets and Lights Interior / Exterior lighting design
Security Lighting Maintenance Contracts
Fault Finding and Repairs Installation Certificates
Telephone and Television Points

38, High Road, East Finchley N2 9PJ
Tel: 020-8444 7994 Fax: 020-8444 6075 Mobile: 07973 509 322
Internet: <http://www.everythingelectrical.com>

Cut-price Fragrances

Coral Pharmacy

Photo D&P only £2.99 for up to 40 exp (35m) same day service

Stockists of a wide range of vitamins, homeopathic remedies, and herbal products.
Open Till 6:30pm (Mon - Fri) 6pm Sat - Parking Available
129 East End Road N2 0SZ Tel 8883 0442

PRICKETT & ELLIS TOMKINS

36 High Road East Finchley N2 9PJ
020 8883 0033

Properties urgently required - now is the time to sell!
Estate Agents and Valuers - Established 1767

Hotblack Dixon & Co. Estate Agents

Our success rate in N2 is very high indeed, obviously in Hampstead Garden Suburb but also in East Finchley. We have often obtained better prices from our base in the Suburb, so

Please call us for a free valuation or try us if you are on a multiple agency basis

17 Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb London NW11 6JY

020 8458 8411