



Barney Needs a Home

Usually the RSPCA is looking for new owners for unwanted or abandoned animals. This story is a little different.

Barney is a big, cuddly teddy bear who was given to our branch by one of the committee.

At our Summer Fair we had a competition to guess his name. The lady who was successful decided he was too big for her flat and gave him back. We raffled him at Finchley Carnival and, you've guessed it, the winner gave him back as she had no room for him.

Loveable

Barney is big, loveable and lonely. He would like to live on someone's bed. We do not want him to be friendless any longer – so who will make a donation to our clinic in exchange for Barney?

Send your offer with name, address and phone number to the clinic in an envelope marked "Anne Lewis". We are open Mondays and Thursdays 5.30–7.30pm or, if closed, push it under the door in Park Road N2 (next to the Duke of Cambridge which is now being demolished).



YOUNG ARCHER

Save Our Library!

Local schools are to be asked to give their views about the new library proposals as part of Barnet Council's consultation process.

Earlier this year children in Martin Infant School did some writing about why they like going to East Finchley library, which the school uses every day. Here are some of the reasons written by six year olds in Year 2:

I love going to the library because they have wonderful stories there. I don't want to move the library because there will be lots of busy roads to cross. I like doing stuff with Rachel.

By Libby

I like going there because you get brilliant books and it's very, very, very, very good. I don't want it to move then we have to walk a long way.

By Bernadette

Please don't knock our library down. I really love the library because they have videos, playstation games, DVDs and books. It's peaceful and Rachel tells us brilliant stories.

By Jake

Please don't shut down the library because I want to read more books and I really want to read all of the books because I want to see what happens.

By Ho

I really love to go to the library because you get lots of books and I go to the club. It will take me a long time to get to the library if it moves.

By Salim

At the same time Martin Junior School children wrote to Barnet Council. Here are some extracts from their letters:

I am very upset you plan to knock down the East Finchley library. If you knock down the

library where would I get my Indian films? Please reconsider.

By Saffa in Year 4

I am writing to ask you not to knock our library down because it is a lovely building and everyone uses it for reading, going on the Internet, studying, borrowing videos and DVDs. It would be stupid to turn the library into another block of flats. There are already so many flats in East Finchley and it would ruin our field, which has only just been re-planted.

By Alice in 5O

I'm writing to tell you how much East Finchley library means to me. I have been going to the library for as long as I can remember. I go there to do my homework and it has an excellent range of books, tapes, CDs and videos. When I was little I used to go there and have a story read to me. Most books are quite expensive; the library has most of these books on loan. Please don't destroy the library. If you do, how will children learn? You'd be surprised at how much we learn from books.

By Nicole in 6H

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Popportunity Knocks

Once upon a time when cats were cool and mice were extremely worried, you needed talent, luck and the unhealthy interest of some dodgy sven-gali to make it as a pop star. Now all you need is luck, talent and the desire to be humiliated on prime time television by Simon 'Big Trousers' Cowell. Why? Because Pop Idol is back. There are alternatives, but going to fame school in some crumbling Victorian pile in Highgate, just doesn't have the low rent appeal of Peter Watermelon, 'Big Trousers', 'Foxy?' and Nicky Chapman being unnecessarily cruel. You see, when it comes to search-for-a-star-for-the-twenty-first-century the closer you get to car-crash TV the better and nothing comes as close as Pop Idol.

Last year's collection of wannabes and won'tbes threw up in a very meaningful sense of the word the combined talents of Gareth'n'Will'n'Darius, gave us a wheelbarrow full of low rent number ones, gave Jordan the chance to cure Gareth's stutter, Darius the chance to pose on television and Will the chance to prove he has real camp potential.

Bigger, better

This year it is bigger, better, more prime time and competing head-to-head with fame school. It has an 'official' newspaper, a web site and sad contestants chasing 15 seconds of fame by yodelling 'Like a Virgin' while treading grapes. It's still got 'Foxy?', Watermelon man, 'Big Trousers' and Nicky Chapman, it's even got the interchangeable Dec and Ant and Ant and Dec, but now it's got so much more.

Take a chance

The way I see it is through the bottom of a glass and from there what Pop Idol offers is a weird mixture of Opportunity Knocks with Dec and Ant and Ant and Dec replacing Hughie Green and non-celebrity Big Brother without Davina McCall. Don't scoff, it's the chance for people who haven't been born with silver spoons in their mouths to have a crack at fame and for the rest of us to waste a couple of hours every Saturday night. And it's even got Gareth's kid sister! What other car crash TV show can match that?

Food for Thought

By Paula Allison

If you ask me what my hobby is, my answer would have to be digestive pleasure or, in other words, eating. I've spent many pleasant hours at The Local Cafe in the High Road where I have indulged myself. The staff are extremely efficient and polite, and there's no pressure to eat and go, as is the case in other eateries I've visited. The atmosphere is relaxed, and the meals I've eaten there are easy on the eye, stomach and purse.

Best in town

One of my favourite meals is the Spaghetti Bolognese, which I think is easily the best in town. The portion size is enough to keep anyone going for the rest of the day, and at just £3.95 is great value.

The Manager, Niyazi Ozturk, told me that this year is his twelfth year of management of The Local Cafe and a friendlier and more hard-working manager I have yet to meet.

With a varied menu ranging from Sunday roast through Klefitiko to fish & chips, there is sure to be something to satisfy most people. If four people opt for the Sunday roast they will benefit from a free bottle of wine too!

Going back for more

Oh, by the way, you might like to taste the sweets on the menu too. I've tried a few, and I'm definitely going back for more. Enjoy!

Clever Clogs Corner

Did you know that the word library comes from the Latin word *libraria* meaning a bookseller's shop? The French still use the word *librairie* in the same way.