



# A Local childcare solution

**Just had a baby and trying to enjoy every moment? But the date approaches when you will return to work and at the back of your mind is that very important job of finding and securing childcare.**

Save for nurseries, nanny agencies and the local council childminding lists the remaining options are few - adverts and word of mouth seem to be the avenues many go down - but they are hardly ideal and unfortunately a lot depends very much on being in the right place at the right time. Amanda Rhodes and Helen Drake, both mothers who live in East Finchley, have faced this ordeal. They have decided to try and put together a local register of those offering childcare: nannies, other mums, or those with experience of childcare.

### Play list

Their plan is simply to compile a list and make it

available to those looking for childcare - nothing too adventurous to start - something that would be updated regularly and that would make life easier when it is often most needed.

The hardest thing is usually for those mums who are returning to work part-time, often on irregular days, where childminders and nurseries simply cannot help - yet someone invariably knows someone who is looking for a nanny share or who has a degree of flexibility. If you would like any further details, would like to register or can offer any help please contact either Amanda on 020 8883 8678 or Helen on 020 8444 9576.



Helen Drake looks over Christine Watson's stall with the help of Christine's daughter Louise

## NCT Nearly New Sale

Despite heavy rain and grey skies, the Haringey branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) held a successful Nearly New sale at Martin School, East Finchley on Saturday 10th February.

Members of the NCT bought stalls and sold a variety of second hand children's clothes, toys and equipment to other local parents.

As it has been estimated that by the time children are 18 they will have outgrown or worn through around £8,500 worth of clothes and shoes business was brisk. A final count-up revealed that the branch had raised a total £135 for the NCT.

## A Spring Snip!

**£1 for a boy and £3 for a girl; that is all it will cost to prevent unwanted litters of kittens arriving. During April our branch of the RSPCA will subsidise neutering of cats whose owners find the cost of the operation beyond their means.**

Come along to the Small Animals Clinic in Park Road, East Finchley on a Monday or Thursday evening between 6pm and 7.30pm. Your pet will be examined by our vet and, if all is well, you will be given a voucher to take to an animal hospital or local vet where the operation will be carried out.

Don't delay - female cats can become pregnant three times a year from the age of six months, that means 12 to 15 kittens to feed and care for. That's no joke for you or your cat.

## Community Development Trust

**A meeting was held by the working group of EFCDT at The Finchley Youth Centre on Saturday 10 February.**

Sonia Khan from The Development Trusts Association outlined the work of the organisation such as promoting and supporting economic activity, improving the local environment and improving local services and amenities.

Barry Rawlings spoke on the way that local people could become involved in shaping the future of their community.

Several people showed an interest in becoming trustees and the meeting ended on a very positive note.

Anyone who is interested in becoming involved or in raising any issues should contact Colin Rogers of The East Finchley Local Agenda 21 Group on 020 8444 6421 or at greencan11@hotmail.com.

## Streetwise

**Councillors have backed new measures that will help deliver improved street services in the borough. Improvements proposed by departments providing street-based services include:**

\*The introduction of a borough-wide, weekday doorstep re-cycling service for all households.

\* The provision of weekend skips for bulkier items of rubbish. This is in addition to the skips provided free by the council as part of the twice-yearly block-cleansing programme.

\*Summers Lane Civic Amenity and Recycling Site to be opened for free disposal of rubbish.

\*The use of alternative and stronger road surfacing materials which are more environmentally efficient and less disruptive to road users.

## Thoughtful?

By Sippy Azizollah  
**To all those car drivers out there who unwittingly park on kerb drops on the corner of the streets, please spare a thought for those of us in wheelchairs, and people pushing buggies.**

The kerb drops are there for a purpose, which is to help us cross the road.

Finally, I'd like to thank the gentleman who asked me to wait at the kerb drop on the corner of Kitchener Road and the High Road while he went to drop his dry cleaning off at the cleaners. Thoughtful? I think not.

## Can you help with Distribution?

If you could spare up to 45 minutes once a month do something for free for the community by delivering The Archer in any of the roads below, please call us on 020 8883 0433 and leave a message with your name, phone number and the roads you are interested in. We would be very grateful for your help!

**Central Avenue, Challoner Close, The Grange, Bancroft Avenue, Doran Manor, Linksvie, Lyttleton Road, Vivian Way, Harford Walk, Devon Rise, Totnes Walk, Cornwood Close, Gurney Drive, Blandford Close, Greenhalgh Walk, Maurice Walk, Ossulton Way (part).**

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### Advertising feature

## Children get a head start

Local children are getting a head start on their classmates by attending the East Finchley Kumon Study Centre.

"The children do only 10-20 minutes work a day", says local Kumon Instructor Ritu Khanna, "but maintaining this study habit means that they actually make progress through the holidays."

Kumon maths combines traditional principles - mental arithmetic and repetition with a fun and positive approach to learning. It's a combination that really works, making Kumon the most successful after-school maths programme in the world.

"A lot of the children who attend Kumon are not keen on maths to start with. This is mainly due to the fact that they lack confidence in their ability to do maths." Said Ritu. All Kumon students start with an initial assessment and are given work tailored to meet their individual needs.

On days when students do not attend their local centre, they are expected to do a small piece of work at home. This regular work pattern ensures that they master the basics and develop concentration and an interest in learning.

Now, for a limited period only, Kumon is offering FREE enrolment - a saving of £15. Once enrolled each student pays a fee of just £38 per month. Parents who want to find out more about their local Kumon study centre, which is held at the East Finchley Library, should call Ritu on 8349 0739.

## Alan's Records



212 High Road, East Finchley,  
Tel: 020 8883 0234

Open 9.30am-6.30pm Monday to Saturday plus Sunday pm