



# Constitutional Change

By Kevin Finn

On 9 September the East Finchley Constitutional Club appointed new managers to take care of the bar and members entertainment. A namesake of mine, Paul Finn, and his partner Julie Thackray were formally welcomed at a party on 15 November with plenty of food, music and drinks enjoyed by an enthusiastic gathering of club members and their guests.



Paul Finn and his partner Julie Thackray. Photo by Frank Tymkow.

### Opening up

Paul, who lived in Finchley almost 30 years ago, says moving to East Finchley feels like returning home. Both he and Julie are keen to develop the club as an 'open-to-all' venue, and to encourage diversity amongst the club's growing membership. Regular entertainment and more trips away are amongst their new plans, and, in the New Year, Sunday lunches will be served.

Julie commented on loving the village atmosphere in East Finchley, and was particularly happy to be able to get their five-year-old son, Henry, quickly settled into Holy Trinity School, which young Henry, apparently, adores.

Let us hope that Paul, Julie and Henry have a happy and successful time living and working in East Finchley.

# Development Trust: A Success

The East Finchley Community Development Trust held its first AGM on 4 November at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. The Trust was set up by a coalition of organisations working in the N2 area and works to promote community development in East Finchley.

Its first project involved taking over the management of the annual East Finchley Community Festival this year, which proved to be the biggest in its 30-year history and was an enormous success. Another notable highlight was supporting the development of Finchley Credit Union, enabling it to increase its opening times from 5 to 25 hours per week. Other planned projects include the creation of a community garden and a project to promote financial literacy.

### Working together

Trustee Martin O'Donnell said, "The Trust is about bringing community organisations together. As we have discovered in the last year, by working together we can achieve so much more. I urge all community organisations working in East Finchley to join us". Development Trusts are community-based organisations working for the sustainable regeneration of their areas through a mixture of environmental, cultural and

social initiatives. They are independent not-for-profit bodies, which are committed to the involvement of local people in the process of regeneration and are locally accountable. They are committed to mutuality, community involvement, the creation of common wealth, independence, self-sufficiency and sustainability. They aim to build the capacity of local communities and put people at the heart of what they do.

Members of East Finchley Community Development Trust include Barnet College, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, Old Barn Community Centre, Green Man Community Centre, Finchley Credit Union, Neighbourhood Contact, East Finchley Advice Service, East Finchley Arts Festival, East Finchley Community Festival, Peabody Trust Housing Association, Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and Local Agenda 21.

For further information contact Martin O'Donnell on 020 8883 4916 or 07919 381 585

## CRIME ROUNDUP

### Handbag snatch

A 79-year-old woman from Finchley had her handbag stolen on 8 November at 7.15pm as she was walking along Willow Walk, The Grange.

The assailant - described as a male wearing a hooded top - approached the victim from behind and grabbed the handbag with such force that the strap broke. He then made off into the Grange estate.

### Mugging

A 15-year-old student had his MP3 personal stereo, worth £100, stolen on 7 November at 4.45pm as he was walking along Cherry Tree Road.

The suspect approached the victim, grabbed him around the neck and said, "Give me your walkman". When the victim refused, he began to punch the victim. The suspect then snatched the stereo and ran off along Cherry Tree Road. The suspect is described as a black male aged about 16. He was wearing a blue hooded top and black trousers.

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