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Sleeping bags al fresco at last year's camp. Photo by Kate Chapman

If you go down to the woods today

You probably won't see the Woodcraft Folk – they're usually to be found at Martin's School on Friday evenings during term time.

The Woodcraft movement started in South London in 1925 taking its philosophy from the work of the American writer and naturalist Ernest Thomas Seton who worked with young people teaching them the skills needed for living in the open air, close to nature. Apart from the annual ten day summer camp – this year at the Gower Peninsula in Wales – opportunities to get close to nature are pretty limited in London, so whilst the East Finchley group are outdoors as often as weather permits for games and walks, the programme includes lots of indoor games, crafts, drama, singing and dancing. This is a parent-led group so the adults as well as the children find themselves learning new skills and making new friendships! If you'd like to find out more about the Woodcraft Folk phone Claire Johnston (8444 1693) or look out for their stall at the East Finchley Festival.

Church End Festival

By John Dearing

After a two-year break, the Church End Festival returned to the gardens of Avenue House on 11 May. It was run by the Avenue House Estate Management Trust, whose vice chair Janet Durrant said that she was pleased they were able to hold the festival this year, after the problems with the handover of the estate to the trust by the council. Janet, who is also the trustee manager of the estate, was a little disappointed with the weather: it started off dry but rain towards the end of the afternoon made an early closure inevitable.



Nevertheless, there was a good turnout, and people enjoyed a variety of stalls raising money for charities such as *Guide Dogs for the Blind*, *Mencap* and the *National Lifeboat Trust*, as well as for Avenue House. There was amongst others, a bouncy castle, swings, bric-a-brac stalls, a tombola, potted plants, face painting and refreshments of many kinds.

Let us hope that this is the first of many such events to be held here.

East Finchley Festival

Saturday 21 June:

Football competition, parade workshop and craft activities at The Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale.

Sunday 22 June:

Live music and entertainment on two stages from 12 noon to 6 pm. World food, drink and lots of stalls, activities and fun for the family in Cherry Tree Wood.

For more information visit www.eastfinchley.co.uk/festival

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