



The Mayor of Barnet sends a group of walkers on their way. Photo by Toni Morgan

## North London Hospice 'Fun Walk' 2004

By Toni Morgan

The grey chill and drizzle of Sunday morning did nothing to dampen the spirits and enthusiasm of the many supporters of the North London Hospice who gathered at East Finchley station to take part in the 2004 Fun Walk.

The Mayor of Barnet launched the event and then set the first group of walkers on their way from Cherry Tree Wood through to Westminster. MP Rudis Vis was with them, as was Cllr John Marshall.

Other groups joined further on and by the time they reached Westminster they were about 1000 strong! There were walkers in fancy dress which brightened the

day, there were children in pushchairs, a number of dogs joined their owners to join in the fun and one four-year-old boy walked the whole 7.5 miles with his parents. When they reached Westminster he was rewarded by having his photo taken with the Mayoress of Westminster in all her finery! See next month's *ARCHER* to find out how much money was raised.

## EFLA21 Soldiers On

The East Finchley Local Agenda 21 is to soldier on despite the Council's decision to withdraw from the partnership. In a letter to LA21 members, Councillor Brian Coleman gave notice that the Council will no longer be a formal partner and that Councillors who had been nominated to represent the council would cease to do so. Support by officers from the Waste and Sustainability team would also stop.

One local LA21 member said, "This decision cannot be for financial reasons as the running costs are minimal, but Agenda 21 represents an important outlet for local views". Another reported that it was obvious when meeting council officers on site visits to the area that they did not have a good knowledge of the local situation—something that LA21 can provide.

### Undaunted

And at its last meeting, local members decided that the East Finchley LA21 would continue with its work despite the loss of the council's support.

The group's Chair, Cllr Colin Rogers, said, "We are not in the least daunted. In the past we have undertaken anything from traffic surveys and protests, to tree planting to public enquiry participation. LA21 is concerned with public participation in the environmental issues that lie at the heart of the community. Just

last week we planted 50 trees on the Grange estate. So long as there's a public to participate with, we will be here!"

### AGM

The LA21's first 'independent' Annual General Meeting, to which all residents are invited, will take place at the Green Man Community Centre on Tuesday, 25 May at 7.00 pm. It will see the launch of a Waste and Recycling directory for East Finchley with tree planting at Strawberry Vale taking place earlier in the day.

LA21 started at the Rio

*Earth Summit* in 1992 as an agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for sustainable development, with the idea that to save the planet we need to act locally.

East Finchley LA21 has its own allotment where it is growing trees for planting throughout Barnet. It has a thriving traffic and transport group that has recently started a Bus Action Group—see last month's *ARCHER*. The traffic and transport group's next meeting is at 8.00pm on Wednesday 19 May at the Neighbourhood Centre in Church Lane.

## Easter Eggcitement!

By Diana Cormack

Let Easter go to your heads this year and get your children to take part in a homemade hat competition. They could win a prize if you bring them along to join in the Easter Bonnet Parade to be held on Saturday 10 April.

There are also prizes to be won in an Easter Egg Hunt. Organised by Sippy Azizollah with the help

of Rosie Townsend, customer service manager at Budgens, the hat competition will take place from 10 to 11 am at the store on Viceroy Parade. The Easter Egg Hunt will be in Budgens between 10am and 5pm.

Both events are in aid of Lupus UK/North London Lupus for which Sippy is trying to raise £10,000 this year. Sadly, she did not make it through to the third round of the Michelob Ultra competition (see last month's *ARCHER*) but her Rainbow Quiz proved popular and she has held a successful Bring and Buy sale to add more to her total.

Sippy is grateful to all those who have helped her to raise over £500 since January and would like particularly to thank the landlord and customers of the Five Bells on East End Road for their great generosity.

If you want to help, you could do so by turning up on Easter Saturday and dropping some coins in the collection box.

## GLA Transport Committee Chair Reports

By Daphne Chamberlain

Transport is a key issue in London, and last month Lynne Featherstone, Chair of the Transport Committee of the Greater London Association and Haringey Local Councillor, gave her report, summarised below, on progress (or otherwise) in the last four years. She was speaking at a meeting organised by Bus Watch West Haringey and the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association.

### The Tube

Progress has been stifled by the PPA, and by London Underground's failure to admit to overcrowding. LU quotes the average number of users over a whole line, during the entire day. TfL are now working on evaluating conditions in peak periods, on the busiest stretches of a line.

Infrastructure is failing faster than rectifications can be made. Official policy now adopted is to plan line closures for a set period, using back-up buses in support.

### Buses

Buses are a great success, expanding as never before. However, there is a widening gap between financial provision and cost. Bus companies retain too much profit, instead of ploughing it back into the system.

Most complaints received are about driver behaviour. Training schemes for new drivers have already been introduced, and Metroline is pioneering training for existing drivers.

The Committee is aware of design problems within buses.

The countdown system at stops does not work, but London may be switching to a different system, used successfully in Brighton.

### Getting Home At Night

TfL is looking for companies to operate minibuses/shared cabs to take people home, both from local stations and from the centre of London.

### Cross Rail

London has been waiting for Government funding for 12 years. If Paris has a crossrail, why can't we?

### North London Line

It's on the list for upgrading, but too far down.

### Cycling

A central strategy is needed.

### Congestion Charge

"A stonking success". However, the Assembly have voted against a blanket extension to outer areas, recommending that congestion hotspots should be targeted individually.

### Speed Humps

They may not necessarily reduce the number of accidents, but a survey (in Muswell Hill Road) showed a 60% reduction in serious injury.

Ms Featherstone said, "There are many things that need doing. Thank God we're on the road to do them."

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