



Sippy surrounded by her photos of local supporting businesses. Photo Toni Morgan

Fundraiser Sippy thanks East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

For the third time this year, Budgen's generous support has enabled Sippy Azizollah to raise even more money for Lupus UK/ North London Lupus.

Hallowe'en Spirit

Not only did the High Road store provide a hamper to be raffled at Hallowe'en, they also supplied food for customers, such as pizza slices, vegetarian spring rolls, cakes and spooky biscuits. One Indian lady employee even heated up her homemade samosas and pakora on the premises. Sippy was delighted with the team spirit of the staff, who did all they could to help and who added to the atmosphere by dressing up in suitably scary outfits.

As well as the hamper,

there were prizes of a bottle of champagne, chocolate biscuits and cuddly toys, all courtesy of Budgen's.

Sippy told *THE ARCHER* that she was "again knocked out by their generosity and by that of East Finchley residents." As well as buying raffle tickets, people threw handfuls of loose change into her collection bucket. At the end of the event another £402 had been raised.

Birthday bonanza

The final event of the year that Sippy has devoted to fund raising for Lupus UK was a party in Martin School hall for her birthday on 12 November,

prepared by school keeper John Mitchell and decorated by volunteers from the Woodcraft Folk. Many local shops, restaurants and businesses generously provided a wide range of substantial prizes as well as some great food. These traders, along with friends and family (who also brought along food and drink) helped that particular event to raise over £1,000

Sippy has asked *THE ARCHER* to express her gratitude to everyone who has helped in her fundraising ventures. When she has the final total, Sippy will let us know.

Cllr Palmer turns the page

By Daphne Chamberlain

Councillor Suzette Palmer has been quoted recently as saying that East Finchley Library was jerry-built, and East Finchley people didn't deserve a library after rejecting the Waitrose development proposal. Did she mean this? *THE ARCHER* had a word with her.

"I must admit," she said, "I felt you had turned down a gift horse, but believe me, I am passionate about libraries. They were my responsibility in the previous administration, and I fought tooth and nail to ensure that no library was closed in this borough."

Admitting that she didn't know East Finchley very well, Cllr Palmer was surprised to hear the importance placed by many residents locally on keeping the library in the locality. She conceded that the "jerry-built" remark - a description originally by a Council officer - was unjustified, particularly in the light of the library's Grade 2 listing by English Heritage. The listing, though, she considered "a bad mistake",

on the grounds that any refurbishment must wait for English Heritage approval and will cost much more.

Right to feel angry

What did she feel about East Finchley being offered a refurbishment option which doesn't appear to be materialising? "Unfair", she said, "People have a right to feel angry."

Installing a lift was not vital, she thought, as the meeting room on the upper floor is not part of statutory library provision. However, she did place great importance on finding out how the library can meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act in the most cost-efficient manner - which is an aim of the East Finchley Library Users' Group.

Footnote:

Cllr Palmer later had a constructive meeting with the Library Users' Group committee. She reportedly commented on the absence of library provision in Barnet's current budget consultation, emphasised the value of rallying a number of supporters, and agreed that the next step should be to ask Pam Usher, Council officer with overall responsibility for library provision, for a public meeting.

Though no longer in power herself, she pledged support "to the death" to protect libraries.

The campaign group now has 97 members and there is a sign-up list in Tony's Continental.

Vacancy

The Archer team is looking for a volunteer to take part in the processing of contributors' text to make it suitable for setting on pages.

Applicants must have basic computer skills, but training will be provided.

The job would involve a few hours each month at regular intervals.

For information please contact Tony on 8883 5954, email the-archer@lineone.net, or come along to a Saturday meeting at 11am at Mad-den's Ale House, 130 High Road.

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