



To China for charity

Michael Burgess from East Finchley plans to raise £2,600 for the Alzheimer's Society in May when he cycles more than 450km in China. He will ride from Badaling to Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in memory of his mother who died two years ago after suffering from Alzheimer's. During the ride Michael will see one of the wonders of the world, the Great Wall of China.

Michael said, "I have put in £1,000 myself, which covers the cost of the trip, so all the sponsorship money that I raise will go directly to the Alzheimer's Society. People have been really generous so far."

The China Cycle Challenge is from 8 to 17 May. For more

information about the China Cycle Challenge call 0870 905 5577.

The Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading care and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers. Dementia affects over 750,000 people in the UK

alone. The Society provides information and support for those with any form of dementia and their carers. It advises professionals, funds research, runs quality care services, and campaigns for improved health and social care and greater public understanding of dementia.

Cyclists wanted!

Keen cyclists are invited to join the **Suburban Break-out from East Finchley on 11 July, a 100km (66 miles) ride via Potters Bar into the rolling Hertfordshire countryside and back. The ride is run on behalf of the Cyclists' Touring Club and Audax UK - the long distance cycling organisation - by local cyclist Nick Bloom, who hopes to encourage local riders by showing how quickly you can get out of London by bike.**

It's not a race, and it's not a charity ride. You can think of it as a personal challenge. Ride with others or on your own, flat out or steady. Anyone can take part on any bike, tricycle, tandem or recumbent, though under-18s need parental consent. If you finish in time you can buy a medal or badge.

Although most of the route is on quiet country roads, there are some nasty 'A' roads to cross, and busy traffic on the way back through Barnet and Finchley. There aren't any mountains around here, but that doesn't mean it's flat. You can take a break at the halfway point, or at many other pubs along the route. There's a time limit of 7.5 hours. You do have to look after yourself; you have to follow the route sheet, and there's no pickup if you get tired or break down!

More information or an entry form from Nick on 020 8365 3806 (saddlesore@blueyonder.co.uk) or from Bike and Run on the High Road.

Finchley Forum report

By Daphne Chamberlain

21 April 2004

Library petition

Councillor Alison Moore handed over a petition expressing concern over Barnet's failure to commit to refurbishing East Finchley Library.

Speed humps

A questioner wanted to know whether traffic calmers removed from her road would ever be replaced. She had received no response to her enquiries, and was worried that the pre-calmer situation would return, when "we were picking up the pieces from accidents every weekend".

Paul Bragg, Chief Highways Engineer, told her that humps were removed before resurfacing, and then interested parties were consulted as to whether they would be replaced.

Chair Leslie Sussman asked whether the accident rate prior to installing the humps was looked at. He was told that it was. Another questioner wanted to know whether there would have to be a set proportion of dissenters before humps were finally removed. Mr Bragg didn't think so.

He was then asked whether it wouldn't be more logical to consult before re-surfacing, so humps to be replaced could be embedded in the surface

immediately. It was the Council's duty to control speed, said the questioner - and if not by humps, how could it be done? Mr Bragg replied that traffic speed was always assessed after removal, "to see if it had gone up drastically". He added that warning signs would be put up in their place.

Friern Barnet Day Centre

A questioner challenged the Council's proposed use of Friary House, Friary Park, as a day centre, calling it illegal. He suggested a Section 106 agreement with Barretts to install a purpose-built centre on part of the Friern Barnet Town Hall site. Leslie Sussman said the proposal would be forwarded to the relevant departments.

Other items

There were protests about the financial implications of the Arts Depot, the "worthlessness" of residents' permits in the North Finchley CPZ, and the closure of Church End Post Office. Mr Sussman said that the Council was powerless to do anything about Post Office closures.

Next Forum

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 July at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12 (where one speaker hoped the acoustics would be better).

An excellent result

By Diana Cormack

The Easter Egg Hunt held at Budgen's in aid of North London Lupus/Lupus UK was a wonderful success. Organiser Sippy Azizollah was overjoyed at the generosity of people.



Sippy Azizollah collecting in Budgen's Photo by John Dearing

"They were filling my money boxes like there was no tomorrow," she said.

Sippy was in the store from 9 am to 5 pm and in those few hours the four Lupus collection boxes were filled three times, raising a total of £250. Sippy would like to thank everyone who gave so generously and to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Budgen's, who were brilliant, with a special mention for their customer service manager Rosie Townsend.

Unfortunately, on a soggy Saturday morning, nobody turned up for the Easter Bonnet Parade, so Sippy raised some more money by raffling off the prize at The Five Bells Quiz Night, which is held every Monday evening. At the time of writing, her total is almost £1,700 closer towards her target of £10,000.

If you were inspired by the London Marathon, don't forget that you could run for Lupus UK in the London 10K Run

on Sunday 1 August. It starts at the Hard Rock Cafe at 9.35 am and finishes at St Paul's Cathedral. Email Sippy at sippya@hotmail.com or phone THE ARCHER Voicemail on 08717 33 44 65 for details.

Sunday 6 June 100 mile relay challenge.

Sippy and friends are looking for 100 people to each run just one mile in their 100 mile challenge in East Finchley. They'd like each runner to obtain a small amount of sponsorship for the completion of their mile.

There will be a whole day of fun and events to include the whole of our local community. All proceeds will go towards Sippy's Lupus UK fund raiser.

Car boot sale/ BBQ/ traditional fete attractions/ memorabilia auction/ bouncy castle. Local newspaper and TV coverage.

Information and sponsor forms from Sippy, Bobby Moore or The Five Bells Pub.

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