



Revd. Simon Dyke, his wife Claire and the East Finchley Baptist Church Children's Youth Group. Photo by Craig Johnson.

Jamming session

By Viviana Lotti

What should be spread first on scones - jam or cream? This question generated a lively discussion at the Strawberry Cream Tea party held at the East Finchley Baptist Church in Creighton Avenue on Saturday 2 July.

Overseen by the Reverend Simon Dyke and his wife Claire, the event was organised by the Church's Children's Youth Group (age range from three to 18 years) to raise money for a good cause. For the past five years the church has funded the education of a teenage girl in Lebanon, who also cares for her sick father.

Co-ordinator Heather Ward told *THE ARCHER* that each year the Youth Group devised new fundraising ideas, such as last year's Grow a Fiver project, where children were encouraged to think of ways to increase or make a profit from £5.

This year, for 50pence each, locals enjoyed a traditional cream tea with fresh straw-

berries, scones and jam (both made by the children) and tea, served at tables beautifully laid with pretty tablecloths, vases of flowers and china crockery (acquired by Heather from assorted charity shops).

Despite competition from the Live 8 concert, Wimbledon, uncertain weather conditions and, unexpectedly, an incontinent pigeon, the tables were filled with appreciative customers. The children served teas with care and enthusiasm and also ran a separate 'stall' selling their homemade scones and jam.

So what do *THE ARCHER*'s readers think? Should the jam be spread on the scone first, or should one start with the cream?

Local support group for hospice

By Lucy Chamberlin

The North London Hospice is, many people agree, a jewel in the crown of the wider community. Starting this month, an East Finchley support group also encompassing Muswell Hill and Hornsey will join those already established throughout the boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Barnet, all of which are served by the hospice.

The hospice's costs have spiralled to £4.9 million a year partly due to the necessity of retaining specialist medical staff in an increasingly competitive national market. It receives less than £1 million from the NHS, yet cares for more than 1,000 people each year, as well as providing services in the home, along with bereavement counselling, all free of charge.

The Mill Hill support group has recently celebrated raising £1 million over a year, while the Big Fun Walk from East Finchley to Westminster, organised by the Hampstead Garden Suburb committee, will be a

familiar event to many.

According to the hospice's chairman, Peter Kraushar, plans are in place to contact past supporters as well as a number of shops in the area. The group would have stands at local festivals, and arrange locally based fundraising activities such as walks, concerts, bridge drives and exhibitions, depending on popular demand.

If you are interested in getting involved to support the group, come along to the first meeting on Monday 8 August, from 7.30 pm at 2 Lauradale Road, N2. Alternatively, ring Peter Kraushar on 020 8883 4736.

Top of the class

By Diana Cormack

A member of staff at Martin Infant School has won the London final of Teaching Assistant of the Year, part of the annual nationwide Teaching Awards.

Leslie Smith, who has worked in the school nursery for 15 years, was nominated by headteacher Kevin Anscomb. Qualified nursery nurse Leslie has shown exceptional talent in her role there, with the award describing her as having "the rare quality of making every child feel like the most important person in the world".

Everyone who knows Leslie greeted the news of her nomination with great enthusiasm. In fact, Kevin was inundated with telephone calls and letters from people who wanted to praise the unsung heroine of their school.

Leslie finds time for many other duties: she is a School Governor and active PTA member; she runs the staffroom tea and coffee club, organises collections and gifts, and is the unofficial social secretary and treasurer for team outings as well as being involved in fund raising events.

She gives so much to the school that one family described her as "Mrs 110%". Her advice is sought by many and her compassion is well known.

Mr Anscomb said, "I have not come across a finer exponent of her craft. Leslie is a gifted nursery nurse and an incredibly passionate human being."

Teaching Panel Award judges who visited the school obviously agreed and presented Mrs Smith with her award at the Guildhall. As well as winning educational prizes for Martin Infant School, Leslie won a luxury weekend at the Thistle Hotel, Tower Bridge. The national finals take place on 16 October at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

FINCHLEY FORUM NEWS

A round-up of news from July's Finchley Forum meeting by Daphne Chamberlain

Protest at longer pub opening hours

Some residents raised concerns about plans for extended licensing hours and questioned how they fitted in with Barnet Council's policy on drug and alcohol abuse.

Some claimed to have already seen a rise in crime and noise levels, citing fights, drug-taking, and vomit and litter in the streets. Residents of the 'county' roads have met local councillors about their concerns.

Chair Leslie Sussman said that Barnet Council had no power over extended opening unless people objected to individual applications. If there were no objections, extended licensing was a matter of law, and therefore out of Barnet's hands, although Councillor Alison Moore considered that debatable.

The residents were referred to Terry Vaughan, officer for Environmental Health, who said that the Council had no legal obligation to notify neighbouring residents about licensing applications, but had chosen to write to immediate neighbours "close enough to be affected". He told *THE ARCHER* later that this was a distance of 100-200 metres. The licensee is obliged by law to advertise their intentions on the premises and in one local paper. The time limit for objections is 28 days.

Marks and Spencer closure

Replying to questions about the future of the Marks and Spencer site next to artsdepot, Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds said that the Council was looking to re-open North Finchley as a town centre - along the lines of Cricklewood and Mill Hill. He later clarified this for *THE ARCHER* as meaning that there would be consultations with commercial and general interest groups rather than earmarking the site for housing.

He agreed that a link with the arts (which could include a library or book or music shop) could be sensible, particularly as the site had been linked with entertainment back to the days of the Gaumont cinema.

Unused bus stand at North Finchley

A member of the public suggested this should be turned into a car park, but the Parking Operations Manager said that London Buses are going ahead with plans to use it.

Victoria Park

Questions were asked about the former bowling green and the removal of the aromatic herb garden for the blind. It is rumoured that this area will become a car park. Chair Leslie Sussman said he would find out for the next Forum.

Front gardens

There was a complaint that people who keep their front gardens are being penalised by paying £180 for a parking permit, when they are helping the environment by not turning over the space for a car park. Brian Reynolds said that the Council "was not minded to tell people how to run their gardens".

The next Forum will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 28 September, at Trinity Church, Nether Street N12.

Buswatch going to Forum

East Finchley Buswatch plan to take their concerns about the area's inadequate bus service to the next Finchley Forum.

This follows the Transport for London Users Group report on the 263 service, which found that just one bus route was insufficient for the stretch of High Road between East and North

Finchley. Buswatch organiser Hazel Burnett is now asking for support from Barnet Council.

For further information about Buswatch, contact Hazel on 020 8444 6824.

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