



## School talks to local residents

Bishop Douglass School invited local residents to a meeting on 20 October to discuss any issues or concerns. Head teacher Angela Murphy welcomed everybody and had a positive approach to developing a partnership in the future so that concerns could be dealt with quickly.

Recently there has been an escalation of complaints regarding pupils' behaviour. Miss Murphy assured local residents that their concerns would be dealt with and emphasised that all incidents should be reported to her as soon as they occur. Miss Murphy's aims are "Building community links" and "School becoming a focus point for the community".

Already, one local resident regularly addresses the school's assembly and conveys to pupils the effect of their anti-social behaviour, and a group of local residents is due to meet with pupils. Sixth form members of the school's Outreach project

working with elderly people are planning to invite all elderly local residents to a Christmas party, which is an indication that some pupils care about the community.

There was an update on building works on site which were due to be finished within a few weeks and on the intensive work to be carried out during half term. Completion of the school's sports hall - a state of the art fitness gym, including courts for badminton, basketball and football - was due by 25 November with the official opening on 19 January 2006. Special membership to the sports hall is to be offered to local residents.

## Bread winner

By Betti Blatman

Suzi Sackier, an actress from East Finchley, has been voted London's best breadmaker. She won the London region section of the Carrs 2005 Breadmaker of the Year Awards and is now through to the grand final of a national competition to find Britain's tastiest loaf.

She impressed judges who praised her 'Halva Nice Day' loaf for "a daring combination of ingredients" and "highly individual taste".

Not only is Suzi a winning breadmaker, but as a single parent she is also the main breadwinner in the family. Her acting career took off after she watched Tomorrow's World eight years ago, featuring gadgets which she's interested in. She responded to the BBC's request for viewers to participate in a gadget-orientated session and was selected to join a group of ten people, each given a gadget to work out how it worked. Hers was an electrical parmesan grater with a lighter.

Her off-the-wall humorous response was so appreciated that she became a presenter for testing gadgets to an audience of 700. Although she doesn't



Suzi Sackier. Photo by Chris Hall

take herself seriously and just likes to have fun, she enjoyed herself so much that she registered with three casting agents. Now she takes a wide range of background parts, undeterred by 4.30 a.m. filming starts during winter, and still finds time to bake a loaf or two.

HAVE YOU SEEN PIPPIN?



Missing 5 Nov East Finchley Old Village area. Grey/black long-legged tabby with caramel colouring. Had green collar and identity disc. Is also chipped. His identical brother and I are missing him truly, madly, deeply. Reward offered. Day Tel: 020 7554 8092

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"GREETINGS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON"

## Japanese on the books

By Sheila Armstrong

Barnet, which has 15% of London's Japanese population, has invited a librarian, Kyoko Kawabata, to work in Barnet Libraries for the next six months. She will work in a variety of libraries across the borough with the aim of improving services to the Japanese community.

As well as learning about library systems in the UK, Ms Kawabata, a librarian from Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, will assist with selecting and cataloguing Japanese material.

East Finchley Library already hosts a Japanese Friendship Group, Nakayoshi Kai, that meets on the third Wednesday morning of each month from 10-11am. It provides an opportunity for the Japanese community, especially young mothers and toddlers, to meet on an informal basis and to borrow from the library's collection of Japanese books, DVDs and videos.

Ms Kawabata plays the Japanese harp, called a koto, and hopes to give some demonstrations, if she can borrow one locally, as her own was too big to bring with her on the plane.



Ms Kyoko Kawabata. Photo courtesy of London Borough of Barnet

## A bigger bang!

By Helen Drake

Despite torrential rain and gale force winds in the days (and even hours) before the event, the annual fireworks display held on the Martin Schools' playing field on Thursday 3 November went ahead without a hitch but with plenty of bangs!

Undeterred by the muddy field, spectators put on their wellies and turned up to enjoy the breathtaking display masterminded by fireworks maestro Colin Searle. Fresh from organising the fireworks for the recent Rolling Stones "Bigger Bang" tour, pyrotechnics expert Colin gave East Finchley a show to remember. This year Colin was ably assisted by his colleague, Graham, who has provided special effects for programmes such as *The Bill* and *Coronation Street*.

Once again, organising the fireworks spectacular brought together volunteers from Martin School, the Green Man Community Centre and the East Finchley Development Trust. Azra Nath, Chair of Martin Schools' PTA, commented: "We can tell from the entrance figures that the popularity of the event has increased each year, and we know that our show has a good reputation. People come back year after year."

Maggie Driscoll, Head of Martin Junior School, was particularly touched to see so many



Chris Mentipty, Colin Searle and Azra Nath moments before the first firework zoomed into the night sky! Photo by Helen Drake.

ex-pupils who had come back to their old school, many bringing their friends with them.

**Kind of cool**

For expert (and honest!) opinions it is always best to ask the children. Some said they liked the "beautiful colours" and the way the fireworks "lit

up the night sky". Others said, "We were all talking about it at school the next day". A couple of children said, "It was the best I've seen" while another wanted "more rockets". But the final word must go to one boy who said that the fireworks were just "kind of cool".

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