



Light up a life

By Diana Cormack

For more than a decade GP Joanna Rustin has been raising money for the North London Hospice. She regularly took part in their organised sponsored swim and, after it was discontinued, decided that she would carry on alone.

So since 2002, despite having a busy local practice and being the mother of three children, Dr Rustin has somehow found the time to organise and carry out her own sponsored 100-lengths of a 25-metre pool. Her sponsors are the staff and patients at Cherry Tree Surgery in Southern Road, which she runs with Dr Sergio di Cesare.

The amount raised has increased from £150 in 2002 to £260 in 2003. Dr Rustin did not do the swim last year, which caused a lot of comment and might explain why at the end of October this year she raised £400. A certificate for this remarkable achievement is on display in the surgery's waiting room.

"The hospice provides such

a wonderful service that it is a privilege to give something back to them," Dr Rustin told *THE ARCHER*.

In fact, she uses the money to sponsor a light dedicated to any practice patient who has passed away during the year. This is part of the North London Hospice's annual *Light up a Life*, which was due to be opened by Tony Blackburn on 27 November. Relatives and friends can sponsor an outdoor light in memory of someone who has died, which will be lit from 4.30-9.00pm every day for a month.

This event is non-denominational. Details can be found in any North London Hospice shop or by telephoning Theresa Bowman at the fund raising office on 020 8446 2288.

Open sesame!

By Diana Cormack

Hopes of the new café in Cherry Tree Wood being open at the end of October were dashed, despite Eileen Cannon being given the go-ahead by Barnet Council.

With her car full of everything necessary to re-start her business there after a gap of three years, Eileen was met by a totally unexpected problem. The key she had been given didn't work!

Eileen put the key in the lock and tried to turn it; helpful passers-by tried as well; strong men tried; wiry women tried; but all to no avail.

Barnet were surprised, but not as surprised as Eileen when she was told that the only other key that might work was held by park-keeper Chris Ward, who was on his honeymoon. (Belated congratulations Chris!) At the time of writing the café is still closed and Eileen is still waiting for the right key to the door.

Woods playground 'wonderful for kids'

By Diana Cormack

Despite the inclement October weather, there was a very good attendance at the annual general meeting of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, held in the East Finchley Methodist Church Fellowship Room. As well as stalwart members of the group, there were also several new faces ready to contribute to the proceedings and, hopefully, to the continued activities of the Friends' work in the park.

Compliments were paid to the committee on their hard work instigating the improvements to the children's playground, which were described as "a wonderful fillip for local kids". Barnet Council has yet to put up the commemorative plaque presented by Living Spaces to mark this event and no representative from the council attended the meeting. However, local ward councillor Colin Rogers was there and, amongst other things, he gave an update on the park funding and tree maintenance. Also there were representatives of the police force and Community Support Officers who willingly responded to the many questions about their role as they patrol Cherry Tree Wood.

Other subjects under discussion were the lack of toilet provision for the disabled and the lidless litter bins which allow

animals to scavenge, let light refuse blow away and are not emptied often enough. If there is inadequate provision for the proper disposal of litter, it seems futile for the Friends to organise litter-picks.

The hedging event has proved to be worthwhile however and the planned coppicing has been successfully completed. The Friends had a stall at the two local festivals held in the summer in Cherry Tree Wood, where they collected a lengthy petition about the opening of the café, which has since been leased.

In talking about the future of the Friends, it was suggested that there could be more activities for children with perhaps the formation of a junior section. Three new members were elected to the committee. To find out more about the Friends visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk

Retro chic at its best

By Lucy Chamberlin

As I turn into a tiny alley off Camden Passage at the Angel, strains of Fats Domino and Blueberry Hill reach my ears.

Pierrepont Arcade, with its combination of vintage charm and trendy art, certainly has character, and Fat Faced Cat, the small shop at no.7 opened earlier this year by East Finchley resident Angela Zdero, is no exception.

Angela has had a long-term interest in textiles and, after completing a theatre studies degree in costume design at Central School of Speech and Drama, she did a two-year course in costume construction.

She has worked for screen and theatre and now, with the assistance of husband Rob (who also runs an online Brazilian radio and music shop), she's able to indulge her passion for fabrics through Fat Faced Cat - a friend's nickname for their moggy that has stuck to the shop too.

Every item is a testament to Angela's originality. Much is sourced from her own large collections, and she makes individual bags and skirts as well as taking commissions. Customised or retro, quirky designs, flamboyant colours, chic styles, theatrical creations - attention to detail is a must.

Clothes and shoes rub shoulders with suitcases, jewellery and hats, much like the clientele: from Japanese tourists and funky fashionistas to older women and serious collectors, this is a haven for anyone who values quality.

The emphasis is on 60s, 70s and 80s trends, but to all those seeking the fluffy, the beaded, the spangly, the silky, the felted, the tweedy, the shiny, the spotty or the stripy...Angela will probably have it.



Angela at her retro shop in the Angel.

And they called him Finchley!

A British couple have chosen the name Finchley for their new-born son.

The reasons behind the mad moniker have not been revealed but it is definitely part of a grow-

ing trend for unusual children's names.

Also uncovered, in a survey by baby product firm Bounty of the 600,000 new baby names registered in Britain last year, were Ikea,

Bambi, Paprika and Caramel.

Not surprisingly, the survey found that one in five children with unusual names use their more sensible middle name instead, if they have one.

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