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Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

Smile, please!

By Helen Drake

Nine-year-old Annie Levy is a girl who likes to get things done. So when she came up with an innovative idea to raise money for Leukaemia Research it was "just like Annie", says her mum Vicky, to want to put her idea into action immediately.



Budding photographer Annie Levy. Photo by Helen Drake

Annie sent invitations to neighbours with children letting them know that "wonderful photographer Annie Levy's in town and is offering to take a photograph of you and your family. Why not come for a cup of tea and a photo?" Participants were asked for a donation of £1 per photograph for Leukaemia Research.

On the weekend of 8-9 October, Annie converted her living room into a photographic studio. She wanted her pictures to reflect the personalities of those being photographed. When two friends arrived in their football kit, she photographed them with a football and played her dad's Arsenal video to conjure up the right atmosphere.

Annie, who is in Year 5 at Martin Juniors, was supported by all her family. She said: "My parents let me use their digital

camera, and my dad is going to help me process my photos using an internet site. My little sister Katie was in charge of cutting the cake for the visitors and giving out stickers to people when I had taken their photos."

Leukaemia Research is a charity close to Annie's heart as her grandfather Lionel died of the disease before she was born. Lionel came from Liverpool, so Annie wore her Liverpool Football Club shirt while taking the photos. Vicky said, "Grandma Sue was very pleased."

Annie has organised other fundraising events such as a street stall for the Tsunami appeal, and putting on a piano and violin concert with some friends for Battersea Dogs Home. She is already brimming with ideas for her next event.



"Can we have our ball back, mister? We left it there 45 years ago!
Photo of The Shree Aden Centre by John Dearing."

New balls, please!

They say some things never change but former East Finchley resident Brian Timms didn't realise how true that could be until he returned to the area recently.

Brian was over here on holiday from his home in New South Wales, Australia, where he has lived since the 1960s, when he saw a sight that stopped him in his tracks.

As he walked past the Shree Aden centre in Church Lane he spotted a tennis ball lodged in one of the air vents near the roof. Back in the early 1950s when Brian was playing outside, the building was the Holy Trinity Church Hall.

Incredibly, he remembered it was he and his fellow teenage friends who had got that ball stuck there FIFTY years earlier when they were using the vents as tennis ball target practice.

In all the years since then, the ball has remained exactly where they shot it.

People come and go throughout the years, it seems, but this particular ball has real staying power.

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