



Stanley Emmott and Irene Anscome. Photo supplied by Contact the Elderly

Put the kettle on

Contact the Elderly is hoping to launch a new group in the Finchley area to help some of the most isolated elderly people in the area.

One Sunday afternoon a month, a group of lonely, elderly people will be taken out by their volunteer drivers to a tea party at the home of a volunteer host. They will enjoy something most of us take for granted: a cup of tea, a slice of cake and a chat in a friend's house.

Already a number of local people have offered to drive the elderly every month, but to get started the group needs to find 12 hosts with downstairs toilets who are willing to provide a simple tea.

"It's all very simple, all you need is a downstairs loo, easy access to the house without too many steps and space to seat eight elderly people. The volunteer drivers help with the tea, so you can join in the conversations and hear the many wonderful stories the elderly people tell of their past experiences," says Helen Lord, who is the Assistant London Development Officer for Con-

tact the Elderly.

One host, Maria Phillips, says: "Hosting is extremely rewarding. By spending just a few hours once or twice a year having a group to tea you are making a huge difference to the lives of local elderly residents. They are often unseen because they live alone and hardly get out by themselves. The monthly teas are something for the guests to look forward to and reflect back on during the many hours they spend on their own."

Houses don't have to be large and the main focus of the teas is informality and the chance for a good chat. If you have a warm heart and would like to help make a difference to some of the most vulnerable elderly people in East Finchley please call Freephone 0800 716 543. You can also visit www.contact-the-elderly.org or email helen.lord@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

Stanley Field fight 'going round in circles'

By Daphne Chamberlain

"What is going on in East Finchley?" asked Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, at last month's Finchley Forum.

Along with the demolition of the Herbert Wilmot Centre in Eagans Close and the downgrading of the library, there had still been no response from Barnet Council to the Trust's proposals to keep Stanley Road Playing Field for community recreation.

Philip King, Chair of the Walks Residents' Association, said 18 months had passed since the Football Foundation had expressed approval for the proposals, and a year since the issue was taken to the Forum. "Since then," he said, "Things have just gone round in a circle."

Mr Chapman and Mr King handed letters of support, correspondence and a timetable of meetings and telephone conversations to the Democratic Services Representative. They are concerned that Council Leader Brian Salinger has said the field must be looked at in the 'wider picture' of East Finchley.

In a meeting with Paul Allen from the National Playing Fields Association, who was setting out means of preserving the field, Councillor Salinger had mentioned that there could be some land available elsewhere following the demolition and rebuilding of a local school.

Martin Schools named

Barnet's Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds told the Forum that the Council was 'immersed in the Primary Schools Capital Investment Programme'. Saying that Barnet must look at playing field provision for all schools, he mentioned the Martin Schools by name. Martin Schools are on the proposed list for remodeling in 2012-13, though a senior governor has told *THE ARCHER* that these plans for the school may never happen.

Brian Reynolds said, "Priority should not be given to Stanley Field, but that doesn't mean that dialogue is not going on. Discussions are not exhausted". He has asked Councillor Salinger to include the Trust in further discussions.

Goodbye and thanks

This Forum was the last to be chaired by Conservative Councillor Leslie Sussman, who is not standing for re-election this month. Labour councillor Colin Rogers paid tribute to him, praising his many years of service and his very fair and courteous chairing of the Forum and other meetings. Leslie Sussman will continue his involvement with Finchley Charities.

Stanley Field draws in the artists

By Eti Wade

East Finchley Open, a group of artists and craft people living in and around East Finchley, is widening its scope to produce socially responsive work particular to this area. Operating since 2004, and with an active membership of 50, the Open is the biggest and most successful group of its kind in North London.

It already has a Summer Open House in July and a Winter Fair in November, but for some time now members have wanted to contribute to, and become involved in, local community issues.

Recently the Open has contributed original and inspiring decorations to the new police patrol base on the High Road, and is now taking on the Stanley Road Playing Field campaign. The aim is to produce work to highlight the important issues of maintaining and investing in our green and recreational spaces.

The Open is currently working, individually and in collaboration, to produce a body of creative photography, painting, poetry and other media, which will comment on, document, and commemorate the field. The Group hopes to add to awareness of the issue, and to fuel debate. The outcome

will be an exhibition of work in a local venue.

Have the goalposts been

moved?

By Daphne Chamberlain
Following the discussion on the future of Stanley Field at last month's Finchley Forum, Philip King, from The Walks Residents Association, questioned whether the goalposts were being moved.

He said that if Barnet Council was thinking of offering a playing field on the demolished and rebuilt Martin School site in 2012-13, in exchange for selling off Stanley Road Field for commercial development, then it did not reflect previous discussions.

Mr King said: "The possibility of some leftover land being designated as a dual-use playing field in no way compensates for the selling-off of Stanley Road Field. The East Finchley Development Trust's proposals are directed specifically at saving the whole of Stanley Field for community recreation.

"The sale of the field to the local authority in 1956 was with the proviso that it should be kept for recreational purposes under the provision of the then Education Act. East Finchley has already lost the community facility of the Herbert Wilmot Centre. The library has been downgraded. Now Stanley Field may be earmarked for housing development as part of a 'wider picture'.

"I hope that this wider picture is not a ploy for presenting the Trust with a 'like it or leave it' fait accompli under the umbrella of Primary School Regeneration Plans.

"The Walks Residents Association and the East Finchley Development Trust are keen to continue dialogue with the Council. We will continue with our efforts to save the whole of Stanley Field from the developers."

Boost for advice service

East Finchley Advice Service has been given a £2,500 boost this spring towards training volunteers in debt counselling. The money was handed over by Vyanjana Trivevi, manager of the local Abbey branch in the High Road, to Advice Service manager Terry Stone.

The charity, based in Church Lane, helps more than 4,000 clients annually and has several new projects planned for this year, including 'Age Matters', an outreach service for elderly people, and a series of eight-week training courses for the young unemployed.

One for the diary

Did you know that at three seconds past two minutes past one in the morning of 4 May, the time and date, properly written, was 01:02:03, 04.05.06. And that won't happen again for another 100 years!

Seen and Heard

Oh bollards!

Notice seen in East Finchley tube station forecourt:

"Be aware of parking bollards."

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