



Sylvia steps down after six years

For the past six years East Finchley resident Sylvia Duthie has worked tirelessly as Chair of Governors at Holy Trinity school.

What makes her unusual is that she only became a governor after her two children, Alex, now 21 and Isobel, now 18, had left.

Sylvia, who lives in Leicester Road and teaches adults recovering from mental health problems at Barnet College, said: "I'm passionate about education, and everyone who knows me, knows that. While my children were at Holy Trinity I was very involved in the parents' association. After they'd left the school the London Diocesan Board for Education asked if I'd represent them on the governing body. It has been an amazing and rewarding experience."

But now Sylvia has decided to stand down as Chair, although she will remain a governor until next summer. Her next challenge is to help set up the proposed Finchley Academy, continuing her voluntary involvement in education.

She said: "I'm moving on to a project that's going to improve the prospects of all pupils in East Finchley, a new academy, and I want to be instrumental in bringing that into being."

Labour of love

School governors are the largest volunteer force in the country and for Sylvia, who being a governor has been a labour of love. Parent governor Chris Hampson said: "There is no doubt that Holy Trinity School would not be in the position it is today without the fantastic effort and guidance of Sylvia Duthie."

When she took over as Chair in 2000, the school had just "squeaked" through an Ofsted inspection. By the time the inspectors returned in 2002 she had helped turn around Holy Trinity's fortunes dramatically; it was declared "a good school with some outstanding features", one of which was the governing body. She was also instrumental in raising much-needed cash to build a new extension at the school housing, among other things, a purpose-built library.

Head teacher Timothy Bowden said: "I will miss Sylvia's support, wisdom and guidance and I thank her for everything she has done for the past and present pupils, staff and parents of this school."

Fortis Green's lofty heights

By Daphne Chamberlain

It's true! Fortis Green, at the boundary near Twyford Avenue, is the highest point in the old borough of Finchley.

That's if you don't count Spaniards Inn in Hampstead Lane which, at 431 feet above sea level, towers over the opposition: six feet higher than the top of Barnet Hill. In the garden of the Spaniards you can still see a boundary stone marked FP (Finchley Parish) 1799.

To return to Fortis Green: at 318 feet above sea level, our local high point tops Oakleigh Road North (317 feet), the High Road near B&Q (311 feet), Ballards Lane near the police station (300 feet) and the Tally Ho pub at North Finchley (287 feet).

On the downward slide, the old Friern Barnet Town Hall checks in at 216 feet, while the North Circular plummets to 120 feet.

There's ammunition here for the Bus Watch Group. Pedestrians living down in the Strawberry Vale area and trudging off to the shops or the station, have to climb from the lowest to the highest point in Finchley, with just one bus to help them out.

Footnote: Thanks to Derek Warren from The Finchley Society for supplying the statistics.

The sweet smell of success

By Ann Bronkhorst

For years, people using Coldfall Wood have known that the stream trickling through it, grey and often smelly, was polluted. For years, locals muttered about "cowboy plumbing" but were told by Thames Water either that the problem had been resolved or, alternatively, that nothing could be done.

Suddenly, thanks to the persistence of the Friends of Coldfall Wood and extra leverage from Lynne Featherstone MP, it now appears that something can be done after all. Thames Water has confirmed that seven houses nearby have got "misconnections" resulting in what they call "grey water" entering the stream.

The householders have



Police and Jewish Leaders discuss the campaign. Picture courtesy Met. Police.

Anti-semitic crime campaign

A new campaign to encourage members of the Jewish community to report anti-semitic crime was launched at Edgware United Synagogue on Sunday 17 September.

Entitled *Stop Anti-semitic Crime, Report Anti-semitic Crime*, the campaign is the initiative of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, Barnet Police and the Community Security Trust, and has been developed in consultation with the members of the Jewish community.

This campaign aims to remind the community of the importance of reporting all anti-semitic attacks, whether verbal or physical, to the police and the CST. If the police are made aware of the attacks, they will be able not only to target offenders, but also to structure local patrols more effectively and provide reassurance for the community as a whole.

Rabbi Benjamin Rabinowitz from Edgware United Synagogue, Rabbi Zalman Sudak from Edgware Lubavitch, local councillor Brian Gordon and PS Dan Reid from the Edgware Safer Neighbourhood Team launched the new campaign, which will include the display of posters and leaflets in local synagogues, communal buildings, shops and restaurants.

Mark Gardner, Director of Communications for the CST, said: "We urge anybody who experiences or witnesses an anti-semitic attack to report it immediately to the police and the CST. The more information we have about the crimes, the better our policing and communal security response will be."

Chief Superintendent

Stephen Kavanagh, Borough Police Commander, said: "Both my senior management team and I are committed to working more closely with the Jewish Community to reduce these vile incidents and increase our support to victims. If we are to understand better what is going on and how to combat it, reporting to the police is vital."

Hidden sign

A few months ago the street sign on the corner of East End Road and Hamilton Road was vandalised and bent to face the wrong way. It then fell down the pole, to be relocated resting on the pavement against a nearby brick wall. Then it vanished completely.

Despite Barnet Council being informed of the missing street sign (Hamilton Road, leading to Cecilia Close, Benedict Way and Manor Park Road), there is still no replace-

ment on the pole but if you look very closely amongst the overgrown ivy on the wall opposite, you will see the old street sign peeping through, just about visible in daylight.

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for: The Grange and Bancroft Ave.

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or distribution@the-archer.co.uk

The East DENTAL
Tel: 020 8

The East Finchley DENTAL CENTRE

Dr D Freedman BDS (England), MSc (London)
Dr A Wikstrand BDS (Sweden)
Dr Patricia Ogden BDS (England) and Associates

NHS DENTAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

To register for NHS Dental Care or if you require emergency treatment please call
Tel: 020 8444 3436
Web: www.eastfinchleydentalcentre.co.uk

- Friendly, experienced, dedicated Dental Team
- General Dental Care and Service
- Special care for Nervous patients
- Dental Care for Children
- Preventative Dental Care
- Cosmetic Treatment
- Private treatment undertaken
- Teeth Whitening

144 High Road, East Finchley, N2 9ED

All are welcome to register and be treated at The East Finchley Dental Centre. In a modern and friendly atmosphere, where all can feel welcome.