



Wheelie specials

By Diana Cormack

At the end of July children attending Scribbles Nursery in Hertford Road took part in a fund raising event in aid of the NSPCC. They joined more than 4,000 others from over 100 nurseries across the capital who were aiming to raise over £25,000 from May to August. The children were sponsored to complete laps of a circuit either pushing or riding a wheeled toy. They received a sticker for each completed lap and a strip of Happy Kids stickers when they finished.



Under starters orders! Laura Blackaller and Nora Tageldin get a group of children ready for their ride. Photo by Diana Cormack

The money raised will go directly towards supporting the work of the NSPCC in London, funding over 25 projects helping to prevent and protect children from child abuse. This also builds the foundations of the NSPCC Full Stop campaign. The NSPCC relies on voluntary donations for 85% of its income and needs to raise £47 million annually simply to maintain its crucial

services.

Recycling for tots

Organiser Shareenah Cemal told *THE ARCHER* about previous fund raising events held at Scribbles and of how the staff aim to raise the awareness of the youngsters in their care, particularly using community-based projects. At the time of writing they were planning a re-cycling event, with suitable materials to be brought in on

specific days and put in special bins outside the nursery at 2A Hertford Road.

As Scribbles takes children from aged six months to five years, parental involvement is crucial. The idea is for this to be an on-going feature, which will create a regular re-cycling habit in both the children and adults. It could also encourage others in the locality to use those re-cycle bins!

No such thing as a free game

By John Lawrence

People who want to play tennis on the two courts in Cherry Tree Wood are having to put their hands in their pockets to pay charges again.

Playing on the courts has been free for some years because no one has been available to collect fees or take bookings but now an hour's play costs £5.10 for adults and £2.60 for juniors.

Barnet Council has come to an agreement with the tenants of the re-opened Cherry Tree Wood café to man the courts and take the bookings. The council claims it is a fair system that prevents players occupying the courts for too long and is in line with other courts in the borough.

Fair play?

But the reintroduction of tennis charges has not gone down well with regular users. Anita Rai,

of Ingram Road, said it would discourage local adults and children from using the amenity to learn the sport and keep fit.

"I feel sorry for those children whose parents can't afford to give them a few pounds to play tennis," she said. "I think it is much fairer to keep the courts open for everyone regardless of how much money you have. I have played there for many years and the system worked well. People came, they waited and then played. People on the courts were very courteous and when there was a queue, they kept their games down to half an hour or so. No-one seemed to mind that."

Matthew Mardling, Barnet

Council's Greenspaces Service Manager, said the only reason the Cherry Tree Wood courts were free in the past was because there was no one to man them. The reopening of the café had allowed them to reintroduce the booking system.

He said: "Though I appreciate the reintroduction of charges has come as a surprise to those who have been enjoying free tennis facilities, we receive very few complaints about our charging policies. More complaints are generally generated when charging is interrupted, because people no longer have the ability to book the courts."

See Letters on page 11.

Food for thought

By Daphne Chamberlain

John Hajdu, from Ringwood Avenue, is inviting you out for lunch. It's a 12-month open invitation, though he does hope you will go on to join his club. He became a Probus member five years ago, and is this year's local president.

PRO comes from "professional" and BUS from "business", so does this mean a certain exclusivity? John, known to many as Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, says not. "That would be a bit silly. We welcome people from all occupations, but they must be either retired or on the point of retiring. Our aim is to get together for lunch every month, to provide interesting



John Hajdu with gavel and chain of office. Picture by John Dearing

speakers and good conversation, and to make friends."

This autumn's programme offers talks on jazz, autism (John's presidential charity), Pilates and wacky gadgets, and a visit to the Guildhall Art Gallery and London's Roman amphitheatre.

The first Probus club, an offshoot of the Rotary movement, started in 1965 in Welwyn Garden City, and there are now hundreds in this country, as well as many overseas.

John's Northern Heights branch draws its members

mainly from Highgate, Muswell Hill, East Finchley and Church End. They generally meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 12.15 for 12.45pm in the Sparta Restaurant, 225-227 Regents Park Road, N3, where £12 brings them the talk, a two-course lunch and tea or coffee. Club membership costs £10 a year.

Anyone interested in joining the club should first phone John on 020 8883 8114. You can then make up to two visits as his guest before deciding whether Probus is for you.

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