



# Gas volunteers make a difference

By Helen Drake

Sixteen employees from British Gas swapped their desks for the Martin Schools' playing field when they took part in "London Better Together Day" on 15 June, organised by the charity Business in the Community.

The aim of the day was for teams of colleagues from prominent businesses to work on projects in schools and organisations in areas of need in London. Many of the projects have environmental themes, such as regenerating urban nature reserves and parks. Across London, more than 4,000 people took part.

British Gas is one of the main sponsors of the event. The company kindly gave Martin Schools a £500 budget to fund all the necessary tools and equipment.

## Creating colour and space

One team unleashed their creativity by painting the sheds on the field, decorating them with beautiful murals on the theme of earth, wind, fire and water (the Junior School house system); and the second group tackled clearing an overgrown area of the field by the allotments, creating a nature walk for the children.

"We've got squirrels, many different types of birds and possibly foxes at the back", said Tristan Green, caretaker at

Martin Schools, who organised the projects. "The children are very enthusiastic, saying that it's like being in the country."

At various points in the day, classes from the school were brought on to the field to see the work in progress. "We thought it was nice for the volunteers to see who they were working for, and it gave the children an opportunity to say thank you," said Tristan, who is now thinking of projects to put forward for next year's scheme.

For more information contact Gennie Franklin, London Cares Manager at [gennie.franklin@bitc.org.uk](mailto:gennie.franklin@bitc.org.uk) or telephone 020 7566 6612.



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## East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information

please contact the Church Office

Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

## All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



Brownies and Rainbows enjoying their picnic. Photo by Diana Cormack

## Brownie pack still going strong

By Diana Cormack

Despite a threat of closure last year, the 4<sup>th</sup> East Finchley Brownie Pack is still going strong thanks to the hard work of Maureen Antoinette, Lisa Attfield and Shannon Green, plus Ivana Sharp, who runs the pre-Brownie Rainbows group.



Target practice: St Theresa's headteacher, Mr Lyons

## Wet, wet, wet

By Lisa Omar

Despite some unpromising weather reports, parents, children, staff and local residents were out in force joining in with all the fun and activities at St Theresa's RC School's summer fair on 23 June.

Attractions included lots of different stalls, a bouncy castle, coconut shy, raffles, tombola, pot painting and, of course, great food. Barnet Jazz Band entertained the crowd as the sun continued to shine.

The biggest draw of the afternoon was the famous wet sponge throwing. Headmaster Mr Lyons and Year 4 teacher Mr Silverstone took their punishments well and both got quite a soaking. It was amazing just how good the children's aim was when a teacher was the target.

The whole event was a great success in raising a staggering £6,000 for the children of St Theresa's School. Right on cue, as soon as the summer fair ended, the heavens opened.

## Dogged teachers

Holy Trinity School is saying a sad goodbye to senior teacher Gill Fox. She is moving to Moss Hall School where she will replace the deputy headteacher. Her name? Ms Wolf.

Teenager ChiChi Ohouno, a former member of the pack who has moved on to Guides, is working with them as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, giving the youngsters a fine example of contributing to the community.

The final meeting of the year was held in Cherry Tree Wood where, despite heavy rain, the Brownies and Rainbows had an enjoyable time playing games and picnicking under cover of the trees by the play park. Badges for science were presented, adding to those gained by the girls in a variety of topics over the year.

A special presentation was made to seven-year-old Georgia Rhodes, who is leaving the area. Georgia joined the Rainbows when she was five and moved up to Brownies in January. Her experience with the East Finchley pack has made her so keen that, with the help of her new school, Georgia has already found a

Brownie pack to join.

At present the local pack, which meets weekly during term time in St Mary's RC Church Hall, 279 High Road, has no vacancies but there is a waiting list. For details phone Mrs Antoinette on 020 8883 5654. Both groups need more help so, if you can offer some, do get in touch.

## Did you know...?

☺ The Phoenix in East Finchley is the cinema that is shown at the beginning and end of the Scissor Sisters' video for *I Don't Feel Like Dancing*, one of the biggest hits of 2006.

☺ Cheesy products marketed for children such as cheesy strips and twists cost as much as quality cheeses. On average they cost more than £12 per kilo.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

### Holy Trinity

The school's summer term charity was Great Ormond Street Hospital, with the class bringing back the most envelopes being awarded a whole extra playtime!

A cake sale raised £90 for Oxfam with Sainsbury's matching the amount raised, to be donated to the school.

The Infant and Junior sports days were a great success and the weather was kind. Children took part in a whole playing field full of sports and activities.

The open air Summer Concert gave every class a chance to show off their musical and dance talents. The occasion was a fond farewell to deputy headteacher Deb Pothan and senior teacher Gill Fox, as well as a thank you to outgoing chair of governors Sylvia Duthie.

Well done to Haris Bandey from Year 3 who won a bronze medal in Ipon Kumite Karate at the National Youth Championship in Derby.

### Martin Schools

The girls' football team ensured that Martin Junior School's name is the first on a new borough shield

by winning the Barnet 2006-7 Girls' Football League.

A new cricket club has been launched in conjunction with Holy Trinity School.

Five pupils from Year 6 were chosen to represent Barnet in the London Games and the junior team did extremely well in the Barnet Copthall Athletics competition.

The school choir sang beautifully at the Barnet Music Festival and were impressive at a memorable evening with the renowned North London Chorus, when the school hosted a *Sing London* event.

Year 6 entertained parents and children with several performances of "Grease".

Over £120 was raised for the North London Hospice when children came to school dressed as their mums and dads.

The infant school held a Water Week which provided many learning situations.

An optional sleepover for Year 2 went extremely well and was a confidence booster for children who are moving up to junior level.

A successful sports morning was followed by a Teddy Bears' Picnic afternoon.