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Local News is our Aim

THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

New primary school in East Finchley

By Helen Drake

Martin Infant School and Nursery and Martin Junior School will amalgamate into a new, two-form entry primary school in September.

The new school will be under the leadership of Maggie Driscoll, the current headteacher of the Junior School.

The name of the new school is still to be decided, but events are being planned to mark the closing of the old schools and to celebrate the opening of the new primary school. Admissions procedures will remain exactly the same.

Adam Fagan, chair of the temporary governing body formed to oversee the amalgamation process, said: "This is an exciting development for the staff, pupils and parents at the schools, as well as the wider community in East Finchley. We will build on the strengths of the existing two schools and create an outstanding new primary school for East Finchley."

As reported in *THE ARCHER* in February, public consultation took place in January, followed by a period of statutory notice ending on 22 March.

As no objections to the proposal were received, the local authority determined that the amalgamation should proceed and that a temporary governing body should be formed; its first task would be the appointment of a headteacher for the new school. An advertisement was placed in the national and local press at the end of March and interviews took place early in the summer term.

Commitment to standards

In a letter to parents sent out on 1 May, Adam Fagan announced: "The appointment process was rigorous and robust, and I am delighted to inform you that Maggie Driscoll, the current headteacher of Martin Junior School, has been appointed to the post.

"Our new headteacher

shares the commitment and determination of the governing body and the local authority to raise standards and to create an outstanding new school for the community. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Maggie Driscoll, and in offering our support for her leadership of the new school."

Meanwhile, Martin Schools will be holding their annual Summer Fun Day on Saturday 16 June at their playing field in Plane Tree Walk from 12 noon to 3pm.



Headteacher Maggie Driscoll



Pipe line: why was this bevy of bagpipers sounding off at East Finchley tube station and Highgate Golf Club? Find out on page 5. Photo by Diana Cormack

Campaign grows to bring back park keeper

A petition has been launched to bring back the park keeper to Cherry Tree Wood. More than 100 people signed it in the first few days alone.

Barnet Council took the decision to axe the park keeper post earlier this year, leaving the much-loved park and woodland without a regular guardian.

The Council claims that all maintenance can be carried out by roving grounds maintenance teams but park users are concerned that the lack of a park keeper will lead to increases in litter and anti-social behaviour and a decline in maintenance.

The Chair of Barnet Council's Environment Committee, Councillor Matthew Offord, has refused to meet with the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to discuss concerns about the loss of the park keeper. According to Councillor Offord, there are

"very little grounds either for horticultural or maintenance reasons" for there to be a full time presence at Cherry Tree Wood.

The petition, organised by

the Friends group, can be signed at the park's café or you can email your comments to the Friends at info@cherrytree-wood.co.uk.

See page 3 for more.

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