



The Happy Go Lucky dance group in action.  
Photo courtesy Community Focus

## Happy Go Lucky at the festival

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Fans of the Happy Go Lucky dance troupe will be delighted to know they are back at the East Finchley Community Festival this year. The dancers, who are wheelchair users, will be performing at 2pm.**

Since we last saw them, Happy Go Lucky have helped set a world record. Last July they went down to Trafalgar Square to take part in the world's biggest ever dance session for the Guinness Book of Records. "We had a really good time," said instructor Lesley Chownen.

Lesley, a former professional dancer and dance teacher from Sylvester Road, told *THE ARCHER* that they were also made very welcome at "Celebration of Life", a Christmas banquet held at Jesus House, Brent Terrace. They have been among the performers at this event for the last couple of years. In the past, they have also appeared before the Queen.

Like all entertainers, Happy Go Lucky get a real buzz from performing. When I visited the group at their rehearsal venue in the Community Focus section of artsdepot they told me how much they appreciate audience reaction. "The best part is the applause," said Elaine, a member for 20 years.

That evening they were very appreciative with their own applause too, as they sat back

to watch Balletomane.

This visiting company of dancers, who have been invited back again, entertained them with extracts from ballets. Community Focus Administrator Rossana Christianson told me that they have also been visited by a Spanish dancing troupe. Happy Go Lucky greatly appreciate these visits, as wheelchair access to theatres is still either impossible or extremely difficult.

At the East Finchley Festival, however, they will be visiting us. "Some of the faces have changed," said Lesley. "Some members have moved away, but others have come in." Whatever the mix, we welcome them back.

### Stanley stall

**There is still no further news about the fate of Stanley Road Field.**

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, who is leading the campaign to save it from commercial development, will be running an information stall at the Festival. He hopes to meet and talk to supporters of the field there.

## Festival countdown

**Not long to wait now until the East Finchley Community Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 24 June.**

This annual celebration of all that is great about East Finchley runs from 12 noon to 6pm, with a carnival parade starting from the Green Man Community Centre at 11am.

Top local bands and performance groups will be taking the limelight on the two festival stages and East Finchley chari-

ties, community groups, artists and schools will be providing fun on more than 60 stalls.

Organisers are still looking for volunteers to help with festival organisation and to act as stewards on the day. If you think you can help, give Nick a ring on 020 8883 4916.

The event receives no funding and is entirely dependent on revenue from advertising, stalls and the raffle to keep running each year so do come along to enjoy the day and show your support for the community.

## Remember the Free Festival?

**Is there anyone out there who remembers the first East Finchley Free Festival in 1972 in Cherry Tree Wood, organised by EFNA, the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association?**

If you have photos, programmes or other memorabilia you are willing to have copied for a small display about the story of the Festival, please contact Colin Rogers at colin.rogers@barnet.gov.uk.



'The Last Grand' at the Battle of The Bands. Picture by Colin Rogers.

## Battle of the Bands

By Andy Shirlaw

**The Constitutional Club was the venue for an entertaining and well-attended 'Battle of the Bands'. The privileged winners of the rock music competition are invited to play on the main stage of the East Finchley Community Festival on 24 June.**

The bands started playing at 4pm and played through to 11pm. The judges, including local councillor Colin Rogers and Martin O'Donnell, Chair of the Constitutional Club, spent almost seven hours judging the contestants. They voted for each of the performing bands, for their entertainment value and originality.

Two East Finchley bands, Living Hats and Applelips Brothers, made the shortlist

and will play at the summer festival. Applelips Brothers have played on the main stage before and will be welcomed back to the festival.

According to East Finchley musician, Richard Gregory, who used to play the drums alongside George Michael and Ricky Gervais: "Applelips Brothers were fun and an entertaining band; the lead singer is a veteran entertainer. They are a good festival type band, when

the weather is good."

The other competing bands which will also be playing at the festival are: The Last Grand; Fleet Street; Kilndown and Minus IQ. I really look forward to listening to all the bands again at the East Finchley Summer Festival (I hope it won't rain!) and encourage all *ARCHER* readers to join us at this fantastic annual celebration of local creativity and friendship.

## Bikes, baths and biodegrading

By Ann Bronkhorst

**When Christmas was over, where did your Christmas tree go? Not, surely, over the fence into someone else's property: most of us draw the line at that. But it's widely believed that a sad old Christmas tree, if tossed into woodland, might (eventually) biodegrade.**

Dozens of wizened brown Christmas trees lined Creighton Avenue on 28 April, waiting to make their final journey. They were just one result of a massive clean-up of Coldfall Wood by 43 volunteers, led by the Friends of Coldfall Wood and the playing field, with Haringey Council's co-operation. The high turnout included a number of enthusiastic children. Two truckloads

of rubbish were cleared, mainly from the Creighton Avenue side of the wood.

Linda Alliston, Chair of the Friends, says: "The clean-up was a tremendous success; many thanks to everyone involved." Typical of the volunteers' spirit were two who, she says, "got down and dirty in the stream extracting a bath weighted down with mud, water and sediment. Their determination to get it out was something else... and they succeeded."

A second (full) bath was also found and removed, along with two motorbikes and several cycles. One of these was in good condition and has been sent to the police for return to its owner. Smelly unwieldy mattresses were tackled, too, as well as the usual toll of plastic

and glass bottles.

### Litter out, logs in

The litter pickers didn't clear any logs or dead wood, however, in spite of some people's concerns about potential fire hazards. Coldfall Wood is full of piles of logs deliberately left there for several reasons. Some will be used in the construction of the reedbeds; most will rot down naturally, providing homes for various insects, which in turn encourage birds and small mammals. Already a bat box and a bird box have been put up, with more to follow, and notice boards for a Nature Trail are in place.

To find out more about the wood and its Friends, including Haringey's Coldfall Wood Management plan, visit [www.coldfallwood.info](http://www.coldfallwood.info).

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