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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Green Artisan organiser Wayne Atkinson gives the thumbs-up for an East Finchley Market. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

More in store at the market

By Daphne Chamberlain

Martin Primary School opened its playground to East Finchley's farmers' market last month.

The market took most people by surprise, but the Green Artisan company had approached Martin's Head Teacher, Maggie Driscoll, at the beginning of the year. Necessary formalities "took forever", but Maggie told *THE ARCHER*: "I'm very enthusiastic about getting fresh local produce to people, and this is a good way of getting the school involved in the community."

Green Artisan is a new company and a one-man band. Wayne Atkinson is that man, but he had about seven years managerial experience with London Farmers' Markets before branching out on his

own. Knowing East Finchley through friends and from dropping in on Alan's Records, he sees it as an ideal area for a market. "It's literally green," he told us, "diverse, with different cultures, and has a strong link with allotments."

Wayne wants to appeal to all classes, not just to those with disposable incomes. "Some supplies will be more expensive, because of the effort involved in production, but other goods cost the same as in supermarkets or less. There is evidence, too, that farmers' markets encourage local shops."

He was pleased by a positive response to September's market. The main criticism was that there were not enough stalls, but he has promised there will be many more this month.

Stallholders seemed happy

too, telling *THE ARCHER* they would definitely come back. The award-winning Two Fishwives was completely sold out by the middle of the morning.

Ideas in the pipeline include cookery demonstrations and a tea and coffee stall using organic milk, while Maggie Driscoll hopes that by next summer Martin Primary School will have a stall with produce from the children's allotment.

Stallholders would welcome involvement from a few strong-armed people in the community as the market expands, as safety railings make it awkward to get goods into the playground. Contact Wayne to offer help, involvement or constructive comments on info@green-artisan.org.uk or on 077 579 808 48. Further information at www.green-artisan.org.uk.

"Gutted!" Library loses lottery bid

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library has had its application for lottery funding rejected. "Gutted!" was the reaction of the Library Users' Group Chair, Adam Gee. The £857,000 would have been used to upgrade the library building and extend its community activities.

With £80 million to distribute, The Big Lottery Fund received over 130 local authority library bids, totalling £180 million. Councillor John Marshall, Cabinet Member for Learning Infrastructure, said: "Perhaps Barnet was considered to be too posh to get the dosh. We are deeply disappointed that East Finchley failed to receive the lottery money after the heartfelt encouragement and input from the community." Barnet Council told *THE ARCHER*: "Unfortunately in spite of the considerable support and demonstrated need for the East Finchley project, which was recognised by the Big Lottery assessors in their feedback, it has not been selected because other projects are considered to meet their criteria more closely. It has been made clear to them how disappointed Barnet Council and the East Finchley community are with their decision."

Both the East Finchley Library Users' Group (EFLUG) and Barnet Council say they will fight to retrieve something from the failed bid. They hope that, by working with the local community, more library activities can be provided even without

additional funding.

Dyslexia scheme may survive

A key factor in the lottery bid was the provision of a dyslexia support centre. Barnet have told us that they still intend to support this scheme, and will be looking at including relevant stock and computer software in their planning for next year. Polly Napper, Secretary of EFLUG, said: "We will try to salvage what we can. Of course, without additional funding there is a limit to what can be achieved."

Most ticketed streets

According to figures from Barnet Council, there were 2,095 parking tickets slapped on vehicles in High Road, East Finchley in 2006-07. This puts it in the top 10 of most ticketed streets in Barnet. Top of the list is Golders Green Road, Golders Green, where 4,476 tickets were issued.

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