



Katie Dawbarn (Deputy), Maggie Driscoll (Headteacher) and John Pickering (Deputy) are looking forward to the first term of the new Martin Primary School. Picture by Helen Drake.

Martin Primary School opens

By Helen Drake

Thursday 6 September sees the start of a new school in East Finchley, Martin Primary School, created by the amalgamation of Martin Infant School & Nursery and Martin Junior School.

After consultation with the pupils it was decided to keep the distinctive and popular 'Martin' name for the new school, adding the word 'Primary' to define its new status.

In a letter to parents at the end of the summer term, Maggie Driscoll, Headteacher of Martin Primary School, announced that she will be supported by "a brilliant, highly experienced leader-

ship team". Katie Dawbarn, previously Acting Headteacher of Martin Infant School, and John Pickering, previously Deputy Headteacher of Martin Junior School, have been appointed as Deputy Headteachers. To ease the transition process all classroom staff will be staying with their familiar age groups for the present.

"It is a really exciting time for us all: children, parents, staff and governors," said Ms Driscoll. "The new Martin Primary School provides wonderful opportunities for improving even further the educational standards for all pupils".

New governors

Elections will be held in the autumn term for all positions on a new governing body for the Primary School to replace the Temporary Governing Body which has managed the amalgamation process over the previous two terms. There will be positions for community, local authority, staff and parent governors.

Improvements are being made to the buildings to accommodate the needs of a single unified school; meanwhile, visitors should use the old infant entrance. The main telephone number for Martin Primary School is 020 8883 1455.

A crucial role at The Finchley Society

Robert Winton, Honorary Secretary of The Finchley Society, explains the role of the Chair.

The chair of The Finchley Society is the first among equals in an amenity charity run entirely by volunteers. The Society cares for Finchley and Friern Barnet, and is chiefly concerned with building developments, the environment, transport and local history.

The Chair's principal concerns are looking at members' needs, and ensuring the Society is run prudently and in accordance with its constitution and the requirements of the Charity Commission.

He presides at Society functions, and is the Society's representative whenever necessary.

To do all this calls for someone with experience, time, and the will to serve. In David Smith, the present chair, the Society could hardly have found anyone more suited to the job. He is a founder member and a vice-president, and has taken a leading role in the Society since its foundation in 1971.

He has lived in Finchley all his life. He attended Holy Trinity Primary School and Christ's College, and is a member of Holy Trinity Church. In addition he is greatly interested in local history, having written a brief history of East Finchley, and researched the history of Cromwell Hall. Last February he received a Barnet Civic Award, given to those who have made a significant contribution to the local community.

David Smith is always

trying to recruit more members, emphasising that the more people The Finchley Society has, the stronger its voice in its efforts to ensure Finchley and Friern Barnet develop in the way residents want them to.

You can join for £9 a year. Phone 020 8883 2633.

Fake strip, fake story

Police are appealing for information about a man believed to be collecting money fraudulently, claiming it is for Arsenal Football Club's official charity, Treehouse.

The man, in his 30s, knocks on doors claiming to be an Arsenal reserve or youth player. Dressed in a fake Arsenal strip, he asks for donations for a charity half-time penalty shoot out at the Emirates Stadium. He even tries to prove his identity using Arsenal headed notepaper. Arsenal has received complaints from over 30 people who have been subjected to this scam, one of whom lost £80.

If you believe you have fallen victim to this scam or have any information that could help, please contact your local police station or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Come tour with me at Kew

By Linda Dolata

Last summer the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, advertised widely for trainee volunteer guides (something they do rarely) and I was lucky enough to be interviewed and subsequently accepted. My background in biology and plant ecology helped.

Our training was very intense. Every Friday for 15 weeks we were bombarded with information about Kew's role and importance in plant research, taxonomy, horticulture, its glasshouses and galleries and its unique history. In February I had to put together a tour and be assessed on it. Believe me, it was far more nerve racking than any examinations that I have ever sat but I did pass, and now give three or four tours each month.

Kew is an easy journey from East Finchley, either west along the North Circular (some free parking after 10am and more after 12 noon) or via the Silverlink railway (20 minutes from Kentish Town West) or by Underground.

The gardens have been a World Heritage Site since 2003 and have a unique history as well as being a centre

for scientific research, so there is much more to discover than just beautiful gardens. It's a worthwhile day out at any time of year.

Kew on the Med

This summer's theme was a Mediterranean Festival, prompted in part by some of the evidence for climatic change, where so many species are coming into leaf and flower unexpectedly early. By studying plants native to the Mediterranean climate we can look at new species to try in our own gardens. Displays of aromatic herbs, of olives and cork oaks capture the summery scene. Close your eyes in Kew's Mediterranean Garden, especially on a sunny day, and the scents and the sounds of bees will transport you to that Greek island or Italian hillside where you were so relaxed.

Family lifeline needs volunteers

Home-Start Barnet, the East Finchley-based voluntary organisation that supports families, is looking for more volunteers.

The scheme, which celebrates its tenth anniversary in the borough this year, recruits and trains volunteers to support families who are going through a difficult time. This can be anything from mothers with postnatal depression to parents who feel isolated, or are struggling to cope with twins or triplets.

The volunteers are matched with families, whom they visit once a week in their own homes, and help in various practical or emotional ways. They accompany the parent on outings, shopping trips or to keep appointments, look after the children while the parent gets on with something else in the home, or simply sit and chat if

that is what is needed. It doesn't sound much, but is a lifeline for some families, and incredibly rewarding for the volunteers themselves.

Home-Start's next (free) preparation course starts on Thursday 20 September, and continues every Thursday for eight weeks (excluding half term) until 15 November. It will run at The Old Barn Community Centre, in Tarling Road, East Finchley, from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., allowing time for parents to drop their children off at school, and collect them.

If you can spare a few hours a week to visit a family, ring Home-Start on 020 8371 0674 or email Linda@homestartbarnet.org.

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

**Family service and Junior Church
Every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.**

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly
tel: 020 8349 9340 e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

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>