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The Under 12 team celebrating winning the Middlesex Shield in March. Picture by Andrew Stone

Finchley's ready for the World Cup

By Andrew Stone

On 20 October 2007 the Rugby World Cup final will be played at the Stade de France. Maybe, some time in October 2015 or 2019, your child could run out into such a spectacle.

Following Jonny Wilkinson's drop goal to secure the World Cup for England in 2003, Finchley Rugby Football Club saw a huge influx of children wanting to try the game and they're looking forward to a similar boost in September.

Over the last four years the mini and youth section of the club has grown dramatically. There are teams from Under 7 to Under 18, and there may well be an Under 6 group this season too.

With that growth there has been success too: last season the Under 12s won the Middlesex Shield and the Colts were runners-up in Middlesex Division 1 and finalists in the County Cup.

Based in Summers' Lane, Finchley is a friendly, open and welcoming club that looks to involve players of all ages and abilities in the fun of playing rugby. Young players start by playing tag rugby and then, carefully and methodically coached, graduate into the full contact game.

It keeps children fit, it focuses on working as a team, rather than showing off individual skills, and of course there's the chance to get really muddy with your friends.

The new season starts in September so if your son or daughter would like to try rugby out, contact Andy Stone on 020 8444 6054.

A perfect day out

By Lorraine Feldman

Children and their families enjoyed a wonderful day out at Paradise Wildlife Park, near Broxbourne, thanks to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

As well as all the fantastic animals and attractions on offer at the park, there was further entertainment provided for the families in the Noah's Ark marquee, including face painting, Julian the Juggler, story telling by Marion Hertz, Learn to Drum by AJ Cole, and DJ Steve from Music Box Disco.

"The aim of the day is primarily to give as many of the life-limited children supported by Noah's Ark, their siblings and parents a fun-packed day out together and this year was no exception," said Gill Dodge, chief executive of Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is a small, vibrant charity committed to developing a hospice service to provide practical

support to life-limited children and their families, within the communities of north London and south Hertfordshire. For further information about Noah's Ark call 020 8449 8877 or email sstaples@noahsarkhospice.org.uk.

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Sea cadets on the road

By John Lawrence

Finchley Sea Cadets have been presented with a new minibus to help them get to their sailing activities.

The vehicle was presented to the group by Professor Himsworth, of The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, at a special presentation evening in July.

During the same evening, the cadets staged displays of their seamanship skills, including a knotting relay, tug of war and a bomb disposal exercise.

Finchley Sea Cadets are a long-established group for young people aged 10 to 18 who meet on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm at the Sea Cadet Hall in Long Lane, near the junction with Squires Lane.

Regular meetings and special display evenings are held throughout the year. The main purpose of the group is to develop leadership skills and teamwork in the young people and to produce good citizens for the future by learning respect and discipline.

The sea cadets sail regularly at Welsh Harp reservoir and also in Docklands in east London.

New members are always welcome. For details, call 020 8346 1828 or visit www.sea-cadets.org.



Finchley Sea Cadets with their new minibus. From left to right: Connor Geraghty, Jake Cloney, Chris O'Toole and Brendan O'Gorman, all aged 12. Picture by John Lawrence.

Relax at the Lazy Sally Kiosk

By Diana Cormack

The café in Cherry Tree Wood is now open from 10 am - 6 pm every day except Tuesday, when it opens at 1 pm (depending on the weather). Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally Kiosk, told THE ARCHER that if people are still in the park on a lovely sunny evening, it will stay open for longer.

'Lazy Sally' picnics are available for £5 single or £10 double for people to enjoy at the kiosk. Alternatively, you can bring your own picnic rug, bottles and companions and Sally will prepare the food for you to take away in her convenient Lazy Sally packaging. Meze picnics include vine leaves, hoummos, olives, butter beans in dill and tomato sauce and warm pitta bread. Single portions from the meze selection are available.

There is picnic catering for groups of 10+ as well as for children's birthday parties.

Food is kept chilled in a Piaggio refrigerated van until groups arrive. To book in advance or for a list of picnic menus and prices call 0787 964 2778 or email sally-anne@think5.co.uk

In January 2006 Sally, of Beresford Road, was granted the patent on her unique *think5* concept, which colour-codes

and packages the five essential food groups. The café serves *t5rise* breakfasts, *t5revive* midday and *after5 revive* evening meals. In the autumn *t5shine* cooked breakfasts will be available. If you fancy a slice of life in the slow lane, why not take a trip to the park and try the Lazy Sally Kiosk?

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