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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Power to the people

By Lucy Chamberlin

Residents in one part of East Finchley are setting up an action group to tackle the issues that affect their daily lives, and to bring the community closer together.

The idea for the East Finchley Village Residents' Association came to Bob and Patti Owens after 150 residents formed a movement three years ago to resist the installation of a mobile phone mast in the neighbourhood. The Association will initially include homes within a short distance of Church Lane, though members are hoping it will catch on in the area and perhaps spread to the rest of East Finchley.

Fellow Association organiser Caroline Broome and husband David have lived in Church Lane for 40 years, and say there are a lot of families and young professionals moving in who are all keen to be involved. "We've got such a broad spectrum round here, so everybody's got a different take on things. All the neighbours in the area came together over the phone mast and we realised what a wonderful community feel there was here."

Key issues

Issues they would like to tackle include speeding traffic on Church Lane and better maintenance for local green areas. Some residents complain

that they have to put up with jostling and intimidating behaviour from schoolchildren on the 643 and 143 buses. Others in rented accommodation have had mattresses and fridges dumped outside their homes, which they have to pay the council to take away.

Everyone was eager for the association to have a social focus, however, and for neighbours of all ages to get to know each other, creating a network to run events and share know-how or personal support. Street parties and Christmas festivities as well as speakers on topics of local interest were also suggested.

September meeting

About 12 people attended a first informal residents' association meeting in June, and agreed that environmental and safety issues, as well as taking responsibility for the community should top the group's agenda. A second meeting is planned for September.

If you'd like to know more, contact David and Caroline Broome on 020 8444 2329, or Patti and Bob Owens on 020 8365 4621.



Nino Baglione photo by E Ruiz

No train to take the strain

By Sheila Armstrong

Triathlon athlete and East Finchley resident Nino Baglioni sets off for Paris on 19 September, but he won't be taking the Eurostar. He plans to get there by running, swimming and cycling - in that order. Readers may have seen his car around East Finchley logoed with the words Arch to Arc Challenge: the Arch being Marble Arch and the Arc the Arc de Triomphe. The attempt is organised by Enduroman.

Originally from South Africa, Nino has been a keen athlete from an early age and has competed in triathlons for over 10 years. For this daunting challenge he has been training extensively both mentally and physically.

He is highly motivated to achieve, aiming to be the fifth person to complete this particular triathlon, to beat the record time of 81 hours and 5 minutes, and to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

He hopes to raise £50,000 for the Tusk Trust

(www.tusktrust.org) which works on conservation projects in Africa including responsible tourism. He

would welcome local support and readers can sponsor him by going to www.artemisarchtoarc.com.

Beer bonanza is back

Twenty guest German beers and ales will be on tap at the East Finchley Constitutional Club's second annual Oktoberfest.

There will be a sausage barbecue and live music too on both days of the festival: Friday 26 and Saturday 27 September. Barnet mayor John Marshall will open the festival officially at 6pm on the Friday.

Entrance to the event at the club in The Walks is £2.



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