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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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*A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.*



*Victor Martinez takes tea on the Trafalgar Square plinth. See the full story on page 5.*

## Long wait is over for Long Lane Pasture

By Diana Cormack

**The official opening of Long Lane Pasture took place in such beautiful weather it seemed that nature itself approved of this long awaited day.**

For the last 11 years volunteers have struggled to keep the place open for people to enjoy. Barnet Council purchased the Pasture in 1912 and the public used it until the 1980s, when proposed construction work on the North Circular Road jeopardised its future. A campaign to stop the council selling the land for housing led to the creation of the Long Lane Pasture Action Group in 1998. Since 2004, with help from the Big Lottery Fund and local donations, the group has worked hard to prepare the overgrown site for the community to visit.

### Peppercorn Pasture

Now they have succeeded in obtaining a 25-year lease

from Barnet Council at a peppercorn rent. Ann Brown, chairwoman of the Trust, presented the Mayor of Barnet Brian Coleman with 25 symbolic peppercorns when he performed the opening ceremony on 19 June. In her speech she thanked the mayor for his long and valued support of the scheme, which he described as "a dream come true".

This remnant of historic Finchley Common is now a wildlife refuge. Its ponds attract native amphibians, birds and dragonflies whilst a variety of wild flowers, brambles and bushes sustain bees, butterflies and other insects. There

are bird feeding stations, an easy walking grassland trail plus a hard standing path and seating area.

Access to the area, which is bordered by the Northern line and the North Circular Road, is by a footpath on Long Lane opposite the fire station. The Pasture is open to the public between 10am and 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays (no dogs, please) and there is a regular programme of events. Groups, particularly schools and youth groups, are welcome by arrangement. Volunteer work is on Saturdays at 10am. If you wish to join in, make a donation or need more information call 020 8346 5011.

### Photos wanted for THE ARCHER Calendar 2010

Do you have a photo that captures something special about East Finchley? People, places or plain oddities, THE ARCHER is looking for 12 brilliant new photos to be in our calendar for 2010.

This year's calendar was a sell-out success and raised more than £2,000 for local neighbourhood charity Contact. We hope to raise cash for another good cause in 2010.

If you have a photo you're proud of, we'd love to see it. We're particularly keen on photos of people in and around N2 but all photos are welcome, as long as they show some aspect of life in N2.

Our judging panel will pick the 12 best photos and the calendar will be on sale from October.

Please email your photos to the-archer@lineone.net clearly marking the email Archer Calendar and giving a few details about where or why they were taken. The September closing date is coming up fast so get your photos in now. Thanks.

### Big event coming soon to Stanley Field

By Rob Robertson

The Finchley Community Development Trust is planning to put a big event on the Stanley Road Playing Field in the second half of September. We hope it will help us in our campaign to persuade Barnet Council that the Stanley Road site should be retained for sporting and recreational use.

Details are yet to be finalised but we hope local school children will be able to take a shot against a top player from one of London's Premier League clubs in a penalty shoot-out competition. We also hope a player from Middlesex County Cricket Club will join in the fun to emphasise that the site should be available for a range of sports.

A flyer for this event, giving the time and date, will be circulated in early August and there will be more details in the next issue of THE ARCHER. If you would like a copy of the flyer or would like more information about our proposals for the playing field, contact me at the Development Trust on 020 8883 4916. Your views on how to make best use of a great asset are always welcome



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