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THE ARCHER



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Monday Club footballers and their supporters. Photo by Diana Cormack

Come on the reds! Come on the blues!

By Diana Cormack

There was a real buzz among footballers at the Monday Club on 22 June when they were able to play wearing their new shirts. In a scheme initiated by Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant Alex Kay, two sets in red and blue were acquired through funding from the Metropolitan Police. The club plays on Martin Primary School's field and coach Joe Swift believes that team shirts will make the weekly event more than just a kick around.

Councillor Alison Moore, a strong supporter of the Monday Club, told *THE ARCHER* that not enough provision is made for young people in the area. Such clubs give youngsters something constructive to do as well as

helping them to learn new skills, develop self-esteem and gain confidence.

Her views were echoed by local Police Community Support Officers Mahmoud Kassab and Sam Hedger, who com-

mented on how good it was to see the players getting on well together which, they hoped, would help to build bridges between different parts of the East Finchley community.

Name your sporting hero

Do you know a coach, player or team who has made a significant contribution to the sporting scene in Barnet? Nominations for the 2009 Celebrating Sports Awards are now under way.

Anyone who lives or plays sport in Barnet can put forward the person or team they think is most deserving of a Celebrating Sports Award. There are 15 categories and nominations must be received by Friday 11 September 2009. Prizewinners will receive

trophies, vouchers and tickets to major sporting events. To make a nomination, contact Layla Hall on 020 8359 7818 or email layla.hall@barnet.gov.uk. Nomination forms are also available online at <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/celebration-sport-2009>

Beers all round

East Finchley Constitutional Club was awarded third prize in the CAMRA North London Club Of The Year 2009. It was the first year of entry for the club in The Walks and it narrowly lost out to the Ponders End Working Men's Club, which has set a high benchmark.

China in your hand

THE ARCHER's fame spread to children in China when Helen Morrison, headteacher at Martin Primary School, showed off her copy to Martin's partnership school in the Shunde district.

Mrs Morrison travelled there at the end of May as part of a delegation of headteachers organised by the British Council. She said the trip would lead to a 'greater understanding' between the two school communities.



Mrs Helen Morrison proudly shows her copy of *THE ARCHER* to Martin's partnership school in the Shunde district of China.

Right time for poet

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local poet Dennis Evans, a long-time resident of Helen Close, has called his latest collection *The Right Time*. In one of the poems he describes his study, which "is a place of outlines and honing, of drafting and dreaming, an oasis, a temple of ideas. Parallel universes: each sustaining the other."

The collection takes us through some of the parallel universes of his life. There is a lot about his childhood and family, which will strike chords

of recognition for many of his readers, but also vivid descriptions of people, places and institutions he has encountered on his extensive travels, and some incisive political comments.

Dennis, whose work has been translated into Brazilian Portuguese, French, Urdu and Russian, has worked as a hospital porter, farm labourer, millwright, design engineer and journalist, and now teaches English and poetry throughout the UK. He set up the East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops in 1990.

There is fun in *The Right Time*, too, though some of the poems are very poignant, and some have a message beyond the immediate subject. 'Climbing with Jacko' describes a moment of fear when Dennis the mountain climber can't see a handhold. Told by his instructor to count to ten in cases of panic, he counts, "One, two, three... Sweat mixed with fear enfolds me. ...Eight, nine, ten... I look up, see a handhold as big as a glove. I climb through the mist to meet him."

The Right Time (ISBN 978-0-9531298-2-9) is published by Celebration Press, and costs £10.

East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops meet monthly on Saturdays. For further information, please contact Dennis Evans on 020 8346 9528.

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