



Stokes Court residents at their Easter Bonnet Parade. (Left) Bill Bojkovic improvises with a copy of THE ARCHER. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it

By Daphne Chamberlain

Residents of Stokes Court stayed at home on Good Friday afternoon, but they put on their Easter bonnets and had a bit of a song and dance. Entertainer Mike Marineli led the singing, but the beautiful hats were all their own work. It was

one of those days when I wished THE ARCHER could print in colour.

It was also a special day for their Chairwoman, Lilian Chavert, who was enjoying her birthday, while only a couple of weeks before Bill and Mary Bojkovic celebrated their

diamond wedding anniversary. The fun continued for Mary at the Easter Parade, when Mike Marineli decked her out as Carmen Miranda.

There is a lively Residents' Association at Stokes Court, where they told me: "There is always something going on."

Women in business

The Women In Business Network recently launched a new group in their successful business network organisation in Finchley. It is aimed at both women business owners, as well as women in employed positions looking to grow their client base through business networking. This group meets monthly from 12 pm at Finchley Golf Club, with the next meeting dates on Thursday 21 May and Thursday 25 June.

Launched four years ago, the Women in Business Network (WIBN) brings like-minded women together in a structured but informal environment to help each other generate business. Those who join are ambitious people with entrepreneurial spirits from a cross section of organisations, large or small, and include working mothers with successful businesses.

Being effective

They encourage each other in a shared aim of wanting to expand their businesses. Therefore the meetings have to be effective. Word of mouth is one of the most powerful and effective ways to gain more business and much of this can be achieved through business networking.

Each lunch group allows one person per profession, to minimise competitive conflict between members.

Meetings are structured with an agenda, giving each member an opportunity to present their business, but it is not a referral network.

The meeting fee for visitors is £22, which includes

refreshments and lunch. There is a membership fee to join. Call Clare Copping on 0845 867 6030 to book on the next Finchley meeting or for more details. Also visit www.wbn.co.uk.

Silence is golden

Friday 20 March was a quiet day for Pooja Bhagat, extremely quiet, because she had decided to undertake a sponsored silence raising £100 for Comic Relief.

For a chatty, lively girl like Pooja, who does Bollywood dancing in her spare time, not speaking for an entire day was a tall order. Her mother, Anita, said: "Pooja is normally very talkative so it was a hard thing for her to do. But when she watched Comic Relief on television that night she felt very proud that she had raised the

money to buy mosquito nets."

Pooja was supported in her efforts by teachers and family who sponsored her, but it seems that not all her friends were as helpful. She said: "My friends were tempting me to speak, which was annoying but I managed to resist. I'm very proud of myself for doing it."

Top up your parking permit from home or work

Residents who live and park their vehicles within Controlled Parking Zones are now able to renew, amend and print parking permits themselves via a secure online facility.

The new system means that residents renewing permits will be required to submit evidence of residency and vehicle ownership to the council only once every five years.

Those without access to the internet will be able to purchase their permits using Barnet Council's new automated permits telephone line on 0845 301 0206. Residents are being warned that the new system means the two-week grace period following the expiry of a permit is to be withdrawn and vehicles without a valid parking permit will receive a penalty charge notice. The new online facility is

at the following address: www.barnet.gov.uk/index/transport-streets/parking.htm

French market returns

French traders lined the western side of the High Road over a largely sunny weekend when the French market returned in March.

This is becoming a popular and increasingly frequent event although it is not always publicised in advance. Expect the market to return later in the year and we'll give you dates as soon as we can.

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