



Sippy Azizollah collecting for Noah's Ark at Budgens.
Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

Small change adds up for children's hospice

By Daphne Chamberlain

Hot cross buns and chocolate eggs mean Easter: they're part of the Easter tradition. Here in East Finchley we are creating another tradition. On holiday and festival weekends, Budgens sets out a table laden with goodies, where Sippy Azizollah collects for charity.

This Easter, the charity was Noah's Ark, the children's hospice, for which Sippy was swelling funds by selling cards she had designed and made herself.

Sippy has raised impressive amounts of money for Lupus UK, but she told *THE ARCHER*: "I thought it was time to branch out a bit. I love children, and want to help give them quality time. This collection is going very well. I like

being in Budgens. Everyone is so generous, and the people round here are so willing to give."

Tannaz, who arranges the Budgens side of the operation, also appreciates local people's reaction. She told *THE ARCHER*: "It's good to be involved in the community."

The collection, taken over a few hours in the middle of Good Friday, raised £140.

Sing and slim for thinner choir

By Marian Bunzl

Members of the North London Chorus have found an innovative method of simultaneously losing weight, raising money and relieving the burden on the NHS. One of our tenors, a diabetic specialist by day and all too aware that an expanding waistline creates an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, came up with the idea for a choral sponsored group slim.

The combined weight of the participants was recorded, an estimate of potential loss was calculated, and sponsorship was sought from fellow singers, family, friends and colleagues. At the end of 10 weeks, the sum per kilos lost collectively was collected.

Dietary advice was on offer if required, but most importantly, so that no one should feel pressured or embarrassed, a strict rule of no names no pack drill was observed throughout. The names of participants were not listed, the weekly weigh-in took place behind a discreet curtain during the general melee of the rehearsal tea break, and individuals' results were recorded anonymously.

This gentler, non-confrontational approach encouraged slimmers and sponsors alike,

and in the end, a goodly sum was raised, half for the choir funds, and half for Diabetes UK. Several participants have visibly dropped a dress/shirt size, and the choir has lost the equivalent of a medium sized bass.

The new, slimline North London Chorus can be heard at its Haydn/Handel concert on 28 June at St James Church, Muswell Hill.

Toys: try before you buy

By Sheila Armstrong

Toy libraries give their members the opportunity to try out toys at home with their children before buying. So many things look good in the shop but how many fail to live up to the promise on the packet? This is a chance to take them home and try them with your children before what can be an expensive purchase.

Our nearest toy library is on the first floor of Muswell Hill Library in Queens Avenue. Liz Luxmore, who runs it, told *THE ARCHER* they have toys for

children from birth, including rattles, cassettes, CDs, sleep music and bath toys. There is also a wide variety of toys for older children up to seven, 830

toys in all available for members to borrow.

Although the toy library is in the Muswell Hill Library it is independent of it and was set up as a charity more than 20 years ago by Ms Luxmore. It costs £12 a year to be a member, or £6 for six months.

Toys were us

By Diana Cormack

Do you remember when East Finchley had its own toy library?

Run by local mothers, it was set up by Claire Fitzpatrick, who lived in Durham Road, about 25 years ago. Not long after that I joined their regular committee meetings where decisions were made about buying new toys, rejecting old ones, investigating fundraising methods and scrutinising our finances. A burning issue at the time was why the toy library's account was with Barclays Bank, which was not acceptable politically to some. The reason was because it was the only bank on the High Road with access for a double pushchair.

We spent time making drawstring bags to keep smaller toys in, plus marking playthings with identifying numbers to keep track of them on our carded lending system. These cards listed contact details and family names, along with the date of birth of each child. The subscription was £2 a year.

Child's play at the Wilmot

Weekly afternoon meetings took place in the large hall of the now-demolished Herbert Wilmot Centre, where youngsters could happily play with the toys that took their fancy. Refreshments were served from the small kitchen in the cafeteria area. There was a rota of volunteers for such tasks and for the actual running of the library.

Sometimes borrowed toys were not returned. If they did not appear after phone calls or reminder notes, a couple of committee members would go round and ask for them back.

We were part of the East Finchley Community Festival and had a wonderful home sewn banner, which seems to have disappeared. Sadly, so has the toy library. Does anyone know when that happened or where the banner is?

Please share your memories of the toy library with *THE ARCHER*. Our contact details are on page 2.

Get fitter

The Ann Owens Centre in Oak Lane runs a number of friendly classes each week for people with limited movement who would like to get a bit more fit.

On Mondays, there is seated exercise to music from 1.45pm - 2.45pm. On Tuesdays, there is movement to music from 11am - 12pm. On Wednesdays, there is Tai Chi for people recovering from falls (referrals only) and low impact exercise for the more active from 2pm - 3pm. Finally, on Thursdays, there is exercise to music from 1.30pm - 2.30pm.

Classes at the Ann Owens Centre are open to all unless stated otherwise and there is a charge of £2 for non-members. For details, phone the centre on 020 8346 3511.

Girls on film

**By Sheila Armstrong
The Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green held another successful film evening on 12 March. Included was a prizewinning short animation by two Royal College of Art students, Meghana Bishineer and Jane Cheadle.**

The main film was an early Merchant Ivory production *The Autobiography of a Princess* starring Madhur Jaffrey and James Mason. Contact Jana@thenoblesage.com to get on their mailing list for film evenings.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A nice tune

They say that in times of stress and trouble there are few things as soothing as a good tune, preferably accompanied by a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake. Well, maybe not. I reckon you can't beat a lurch into the weird world of recreational drugs, serious drinking and neighbourhood disturbing rock'n'roll to obliterate the unpleasant bits of modern living. But for the rest of the world there is always the good tune. And that means Classic FM.

Every year Classic FM celebrates Easter by running through their favourite 300 tunes 'as voted for by you'. Not as voted for by me. So that means the bleeding chunks of the easy listening bits of symphonies, operas and concertos with added Pavarotti and Katherine Jenkins.

You know that somewhere in there will be the music from the Hovis advert, something they used to sell cat food to and the theme from Star Wars. It's the same every year, which makes it as soothing as Horlicks before bedtime. And about as inspiring as a dead camel.

In the cosy world of Classic FM you just know that if you emerge from a life and death struggle with the bank manager, you can switch on in time to hear their top ten favourites and it will be the same as last year.

Cosy isn't the problem. People who like Classic FM like cosy, just as they like nice tunes, nice wine, nice food and their 'nice well behaved' children. They don't buy a copy of Elgar's Cello Concerto for the music but because they've heard the soloist on the radio and think the picture on the cover is nice. They love the M&S eat in for a tenner special offer and buy CDs with titles like *Music for Dining*, *Music for Children* and *Music for Surviving Traffic Jams on the M25*. In other words they are nice people and would cheerfully disembowel me for daring to suggest that they might listen to classical music but don't understand it.

KF COMPUTERS & IMAGING FUJIFILM DIGITAL

93 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY, N2 8AG
02088159898

- LAPTOPS & PCs SALE & REPAIR
- CUSTOM BUILT COMPUTERS
- DATA RECOVERY/BACKUP
- REINSTALL SOFTWARES
- WIRELESS/WIRED NETWORKING
- ALL ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE
- SAME DAY SERVICE
- FREE LAPTOP/PC CHECKUP
- PHOTO PRINTS ANY SIZE
- CUSTOM SIZE AVAILABLE
- CANVAS PRINTS & MOUNTING
- DIGITAL CAMERAS & FRAMES
- ALBUMS TRI/MONO PODS
- QUANTITY DISCOUNTS
- BEST QUALITY & PRICES

6 PASSPORT/ID PICTURES £4.99 ONLY

Web Design Up to £300 Off

**A Website represents your interests..
..and from £245 including Domain/Hosting!**

Beat the Crunch, make your business Grow!

**info@andysweb.net 07963 256 275
www.andysweb.net**