



Use Stanley Field, or lose it

By Alexander Harris, Year 6, Martin School
Martin School and Holy Trinity School competed in a football tournament to raise awareness about Stanley Road playing field. Final ranking was: 1st Martin Team 1, 2nd Holy Trinity Team 1, 3rd Martin Team 2, 4th Holy Trinity Team 2.



Photo by Shane Vincent

The council wants to sell this lovely playing field and turn it into housing. The field shouldn't be used in such a fashion. It should be free for the local community to roam and play in. It would be ideal if it had a bit of a trim, so that Holy Trinity could use it as a football pitch. It should not be kept private.

The future of Stanley Road playing field is unclear. The Mayor is on our side but is everyone else? Campaign for Stanley Road by using it as much as you can. They will only sell it if you don't use it.

So if you have a spare half-hour, go and have a runabout or kick a ball down on Stanley Road field. The future of the playing field is in your hands.



Robert Moore preparing the pitch.
Photo by John Dearing

Has the High Road become a crime hot spot?

By Janet Maitland

"Everyone is saying that crime is getting worse; you should look into it," said a local resident who called *THE ARCHER* in September. So we did. The caller was worried about a seeming 'spate' of incidents on the High Road. We checked these out with Barnet police.

Back in January there was an attempted burglary at Budgens. In April, a theft and assault took place at KF Computing and Imaging. In June, there was an attempted robbery at the NatWest. In August, there was a botched burglary at KFC. In early September there was an assault and robbery at Abbey. Later in September, a man was arrested during a raid on a flat above the William Hill betting shop and charged with possession of a fake firearm.

"There have been a few isolated incidents and police operations in the area recently," said Ben Bennett, Superintendent of Operations. "We do occasionally see groupings of incidents with no clear links between them. This is certainly not an indication that violent crime is rising. It is actually falling."

What the figures show

The crime statistics for East

Finchley do indeed show that violent crime and robbery are down on last year. The figures for September 2008 to August 2009 show that robbery has dropped from 2.8 per thousand people in the previous year to 2.1. Violence against the person has dropped from 11.4 to 10.3. Every major crime statistic is also below the Metropolitan averages. Rates for both robbery and violence, for example, are less than half those of the averages for the whole of London.

Sergeant Andy Matthews from the Safer Neighbourhood Team said that he understood that the incidents on the High Road may be unsettling for local residents. "We cannot always prevent crime, but these incidents show that we act swiftly and thoroughly when it happens. My team and I will continue to work for the local community and drive the crime figures down still further."

Funds available to fight neglect

By Daphne Chamberlain

If you know of a neglected area in Muswell Hill or Fortis Green which could benefit from Haringey's "Making the Difference" funds, please contact John Hajdu on 020 8883 8114 or hajdu.clarion@talk21.com.

John is the Chair of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association, which will be bidding shortly for a share of the funds for 2009 / 10.

Gooner heaven at the Phoenix

By Neil McNaughton

It certainly wasn't the usual crowd that congregated at the Phoenix on a recent Tuesday evening. Regular patrons found themselves confronted by an excited, noisy crowd of Arsenal fans in the foyer.

They had come to watch the charity premiere of a new DVD made by Arsenal fans for Arsenal fans. *The Gooner Review* is a look at Arsenal's less-than-successful 2008-9 season, when the team finished a disappointing fourth in the Premier League and lost in two cup semi-finals.

Hosted by comedian Paul Kaye, the evening became somewhat surreal when the sedate old Phoenix was rocked before the kick-off by rousing songs and chants, mostly pouring scorn on Tottenham Hotspurs.

A succession of ordinary fans and celebrities, including actors Tom Watt, Linda Robson and David Soul, queued up in front of the camera either to criticise or defend the team and its management.

All the profits made from sales of the film will go to the Willow Foundation, which boasts former Arsenal goalkeeper Bob Wilson as its founder and patron. The Willow Foundation (www.willowfoundation.org.uk) provides memorable days out for seriously ill young men and women.

Any East Finchley Gooners can find out more at www.thegoonerreview.com.



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