



Street dancers at the Old Barn Fun Day. Photo courtesy the Old Barn.

Street dancers and jugglers at the Old Barn

By Sonia Singham

On Saturday 25 July a family fun day was organised and held at the Old Barn Community Centre. The aim was to bring young people and families together to socialise and enjoy what turned out to be a lovely sunny day.

Oak Lane was partially closed for the occasion and all were able to enjoy a talented display put on by several groups. They included street dancers, jugglers and a martial arts display.

Parents and friends from the Grange Estate and Font Hills made the day even more enjoyable by having a barbecue with mouth-watering chicken, burgers, sausages and delicious

home made cakes.

Local community groups were there with their information stands, including Barnet Youth and Connexions. There was also a bouncy castle provided by Barnet Football Club.

Altogether an enjoyable time was had by all. The organisation by the staff of the Old Barn was greatly appreciated by all who attended the event.

Carry on camping

By Catrin Dillon

On a warm, sunny weekend with the weather prospects set fair, what could be better than gathering your family together, dusting off the tent and the sleeping bags and heading for ... Martin Primary School Field.

This is exactly what around 50 families, all parents, carers or staff at the school did back at the start of the summer. The idea came from Alison Gold, mother of two Martin Primary pupils and a governor at the school.

From 4pm the field slowly transformed from its usual term-time look into a sophisticated and well organised campsite, complete with barbecue and camp fire.

Many families were very seasoned campers, obvious from the great array of sophisticated equipment, and the speed with which they pitched their tents. Others were using this one night to test the water and to use it as the introduction to a long and happy camping career.

As the sun set, the camp fire was lit, and people settled down to

enjoy chatting with their friends, or singing along to old favourites accompanied by some of the dads on guitars. Before retiring to their tents, the children were all given marshmallows toasted on the campfire.

"It's like going on holiday with your best friends," said one happy young camper. "Please can we do it again next year?"

Alison said she got the idea from a primary school in Highgate and added: "The help and support of site manager Tristan Green were absolutely vital and he took complete charge of the camp fire which I think was the nicest part of the whole event. I couldn't have done it without Tristan, and also a great number of people who helped with the barbecue and tea and coffee in the morning."

Where's the old gum tree, mate?

Picture and story by Diana Cormack

Despite a month touring in Australia, I was disappointed at never managing to see a kookaburra, though I heard plenty of them. However, three years later I achieved my ambition when I was able to see and touch this noisy bird very close to home. It happened in July at Tudor School, N3, where First Class Falconry gave a display of British birds of prey.

Chatting to the owner, I discovered he also had a kookaburra and that it was right next to us in his van. I was delighted when he brought Kookie out for me to see and stroke and wonder if anyone in East Finchley heard the bird calling over the North Circular Road?



I come from a land down-under

Live music showcase

By Mike Hughes

Are you in a band or do you play music? Then you might be interested in a new monthly live music showcase coming soon to the East Finchley Constitutional Club. Called the Monthly Constitutional, it aims to give a platform to music talent from the local area and plans to attract acts that might not otherwise have reason to come to East Finchley.

Co-organiser Dan Atrill said: "Why should a band that's based in East Finchley, Muswell Hill or nearby have to drag all their equipment to Camden midweek to be exploited by unscrupulous promoters in order to get their music heard? Now once a month bands can play here on a Friday night, which is a much better night of the week for your friends to come and see you and to kick back and relax with some live music."

All any band or solo act needs to do is send off a link to their Myspace page along with their contact details and they'll be considered. Please send an email to info@springparkmusic.com with a link to your Myspace page and recordings.

Concert for dyspraxia

For Alastair Hamilton, school was always difficult. He suffers from a condition known as dyspraxia, also called clumsy child syndrome, that affects his ability to co-ordinate movement.

But he has always excelled at music and now Alastair, of Twyford Avenue, has had the idea of putting on a concert to raise funds for Dyspraxia Awareness week running from October 10-17.

Alastair began playing cello under the tutelage of an energetic young cello teacher at Channing's Junior School.

Grove, Highgate on Saturday 17 October at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 adults, £7 concessions and £3 students and children. You can buy them from Les Aldrich Music Shop in Muswell Hill or David Hamilton, 29 Twyford Avenue, East Finchley, N2 9NU. (Tel: 020 8444 7722). Cheques made to Dyspraxia Foundation. Please send SAE.

At secondary school, Alastair passed the first three music grades (Grade 1 with Merit) and developed his rich baritone singing voice.

When he left school, Alastair became a student in the Performing Arts Department at Southgate College. He joined the opera group chorus and has taken part in six operas. Every May he sings in the North London Music Festival.

The fundraising concert takes place at St. Michael's Church, South



Alastair Hamilton



The Scribbles nursery children enjoy life on the farm. Photo by Sylvie Clarke

Fun on the farm

By Sylvie Clarke

A group of children from Scribbles nursery, on Hertford Road, visited Willows Farm in Hertfordshire. They took an organised tour, and were able to feed plenty of animals, punctuated by endless hand washing, and they took a ride on Tristan the Tractor.

The children enjoyed a sheep dog display and a few of them were able to don a gauntlet and sport a very obliging owl on their arms.

Under a searingly hot sun, the three and four-year-olds enjoyed playing on the giant bouncy slide, plus a great many more climbing activities. The day made a very special

goodbye to some of the older Scribbles flock who will be starting full time schooling this month.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>