



Typical FGTC club session play. Photo by Sue Pryke

## A gem of a local tennis club

Fortis Green Tennis Club, as recently renamed, boasts four shale courts. They are sandwiched between Cherry Tree Wood, the club's own lawns and neighbours' back gardens, in a setting nothing short of idyllic. The club has been a fixture of East Finchley and Muswell Hill for nearly a century. Yet, hidden from view and with an unassuming entrance next to 31 Southern Road, it can be easily missed by area newcomers.

The subject of a BBC documentary in the past, the members-run club is renowned for its welcoming atmosphere.

The season runs from April to early December. The club is affiliated to the LTA and fields men's, ladies' and mixed teams in the area summer and winter leagues. It also runs a number of internal tournaments, formal and informal. Both individual and group coaching is available and there are popular drop-in sessions for juniors and adults keen to advance their skills.

### Uncrowded

A great club attraction is that its courts are rarely crowded. Availability at times other than the lively Saturday sessions is pretty high, including Sundays.

With very reasonable fees, perhaps the lowest in the area, the club offers excellent access and value for money.

The club currently accepts new members of all levels and ages. People are welcome to walk in on Saturday afternoons for a look-around and potential full members have the chance to play in. Good-standard players, both men and women, who enjoy competitive tennis and aspire to play for the club's teams, are particularly welcome.

Further information from the club website at [www.FortisGreenTennis.co.uk](http://www.FortisGreenTennis.co.uk) or the membership secretary on 020 8883 7723 or email [MembershipSec@FortisGreenTennis.co.uk](mailto:MembershipSec@FortisGreenTennis.co.uk).

## Obituary: Grita Dunjohn

It was standing room only in the packed chapel of Golders Green crematorium on 22 January for the funeral of popular former nursing sister Margarete 'Grita' Dunjohn. Mrs Dunjohn, who had lived in Oakview Gardens, East Finchley, from 1980 and before that in Hampstead Garden Suburb for over 20 years, died following a cerebral haemorrhage and six years with Alzheimer's disease.

Known always as 'Grita', she was born in Germany and came to London in Coronation year, 1953, to train at the Royal Free Hospital, then in Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross. In 1956 she was married to Kenneth Dunjohn, a newspaper journalist and later public affairs chief for major industries.

After the birth of her children Grita worked part-time as a teaching sister for the Family Planning Association, including for a while at Fortis Green clinic, and latterly at the Margaret Pyke Centre in London. A team of former colleagues attended her funeral along with many neighbours and friends who shared Grita's keen interest in meditation and related spiritual studies.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Alan Walker, Vicar of St Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb. In one tribute it was said that Grita invariably showed 'purity of spirit'. She is survived by her husband and three adult children.



## Every little counts

By Daphne Chamberlain

After 23 years as fundraising director at the North London Hospice, East Finchley resident Pauline Treen is retiring this October. Her post carries tremendous responsibility, as the hospice, a registered charity, needs £5.6 million a year. Last year, the Primary Care Trust contributed £1.2 million, so the rest must come from voluntary work and contributions.

Many fundraising activities are organised by people like you, your neighbour or your pub or club. Part of Pauline's job is to "raise money by persuading other people to raise money."

### Making a difference

During 20 years at home, bringing up three children, Pauline helped fund small local causes where she felt she could make a difference. For example, she and her friends bought out-

grown children's clothing from each other, donating the money to charities of their choice.

Then, after gaining a degree in 1987, she volunteered to work for a year in the newly established hospice, doing a couple of days a week. Instead, the administrators offered her the post of fundraiser.

She believes in going the extra mile. "If an organisation sends you a donation, get back

to them; find out why they are interested. You will make contacts, and hundreds of pounds can grow into thousands."

The hospice's North Finchley building is a beautiful and serene place, serving people of all faiths and offering, free of charge, 17 en-suite rooms with space for families to stay overnight, a day centre and counselling services. There are also 600 home care patients.

Pauline is full of praise for the hundreds of volunteers who work for the hospice in many capacities, with a special word for East Finchley's charity shop and other local fund raisers.

### Happy feet

Another East Finchley focus is the annual Big Walk, held on 21 March this year. That is run by volunteers and brings in between £125,000 and £150,000. If participants are not too footsore this year, they can always walk over burning coals at an event at The Five Bells in May. For further information about the North London Hospice, visit [www.northlondonhospice.org.uk](http://www.northlondonhospice.org.uk).



The Phoenix Morris Team strut their sticks. Photo by Diana Cormack

## First birthday bash at the tea rooms

The Emporium Tea Rooms at 4-5 Cheapside, Fortis Green, celebrated its first birthday on 13 March. Customers and passers-by were able to watch the Phoenix Morris Dancers, who performed on the pavement and brought a touch of Olde England to the proceedings. Home made jams and chutneys were available for tasting outside, along with a sale of books for children and adults.

Inside, The Emporium was packed with people eagerly eating the delicious home-made cakes for which the business is justly renowned. They were entertained with music

and by a young magician, 15-year-old Oliver Graham Smith, from Midhurst Avenue. All proceeds at the party were in aid of the North London Hospice.

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