



Fathers' Day comes early

By Kate Imeson

A busy few weeks in the Highgate Children's Centre culminated in early May with a very successful Dads' Day event. The rain threatened but just about held off and 80 local families, including many of the dads and toddlers from the regular Wednesday morning Dads' Club, braved the dark clouds and the cold to come along.



Enjoying Dads' Day. Photo courtesy Highgate Children's Centre

It was a fantastic community event. The ponies, bouncy castle and toddler football in the playground went down very well with the children and the barbecue was enjoyed by all.

Inside the centre there was face painting, storytelling, singing, cake decorating, messy play and a giant artwork. At 2pm everyone was given a pot of bubbles for a mass bubble blowing celebration; it was a fantastic sight.

The Haringey Council-funded event was designed to highlight the role of fathers and to encourage local dads to bring their families to the Children's Centre. It was lovely to see so many dads with their kids (as well as all the mums and grandparents).

For more information on any of the classes and activities at Highgate Children's Centre please drop in to the centre at Gaskell Road (off North Hill) in Highgate N6, or call 020 3213 0004.



Three female firefighters and two N2 gardeners on site. Photo by Diana Cormack

Firefighters help with guerilla gardening

By Diana Cormack

The almost barren bank alongside the entrance to East Finchley station car park has been given a new lease of life. Digging it over and planting flowers and shrubs took place on a particularly cold day in mid-May, when the N2 Community Gardeners were given a helping hand by a group of women firefighters.

They belong to *The Good Women*, a group organised by and for women firefighters, bringing them together to learn new skills to support each other and the communities they serve.

Their aim is to help with volunteer projects and they recently worked on Camley Street Natural Park in Camden with the London Wildlife Trust. (For more information visit www.thegoodwomen.org) The link with N2 Gardeners came about because the mother of one of the firefighters is a member of our local guerilla gardeners.

If you would like to help, contact n2gardeners@gmail.com or visit their stall at the East Finchley Festival on Sunday 20 June. Donations such as cuttings, plants and seeds are needed and also people who would do some watering.

Anti-social drivers beware

By Sergeant Andy Matthews

Over the past few months there have been several near misses on the pedestrian crossing by Martin Primary School on the High Road. Anti-social motorists have been speeding, failing to stop at red lights or using their mobile phones while driving.

To tackle this, the Safer Neighbourhood team has worked with the school to apprehend motorists and raise awareness. We ran an operation to catch motorists at the pedestrian crossing for three hours on

Thursday 22 April.

The exercise was well received by local people and we issued a total of 10 penalty notices to motorists. The team has also arranged with Barnet Council for additional warning signs to be placed on the approach to the school.

The children and parents of Martin Primary School are fed up with the anti-social behaviour of motorists. It is an offence to speed, not stop at traffic lights or use a mobile phone while driving. If caught, drivers will be issued with a fine and penalty points will be placed on their licence.

The Safer Neighbourhood office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone us on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email us at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Host a student

Organisers of the first international fashion school to be held at The Institute in East Finchley this summer are appealing for local families who have space to host a student.

Students will arrive in July and payment will be made available to any host families. For more details, contact Brad Vernon on 020 7341 8586.

Cannabis factory raided

By Janet Maitland

Police officers found 640 cannabis plants when they forced an entry into a house in Sussex Gardens, off the Great North Road, on 9 April. Suspicious neighbours had alerted police to the possibility that the house was being used as a drug factory.

The raid was carried out by officers from Haringey's Drugs Focus Unit. Five rooms were being used to cultivate the plants under strong light bulbs, fuelled by illegally abstracted electricity. An engineer attended the raid and made the supply safe. At the time of going to press, no arrests had been made.

"This was a very real fire hazard, especially to neighbouring properties," said PC Paul Hallas. "We would like to thank local residents who provided essential intelligence. The discovery of this factory

and the seizure of the plants have prevented large quantities of cannabis from reaching the streets."

If you have information about drug misuse, please contact 0300 123 1212 or speak to your Safer Neighbourhood Team. In an emergency, dial 999.

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