



## Cast your votes, please

It was not only adults in Finchley who had the chance to vote in May's General Election. The children at Tudor School in Queen's Road, N3, also cast their votes.

After an assembly about the history of voting in Britain the children were read three party manifestos and a polling booth was set up in the front entrance hall for a secret ballot.

The Recreational Party promised more rewards, more play and more money for play equipment. The Learning Party promised more class outings, fun learning and pupils having a say in what is taught. The Friendship Party promised to promote kindness, smiling and working together to make things better.

Exit polls strongly favoured the Recreational Party and they claimed a landslide victory with 68% of the vote. The Learning



Harinam makes his choice. Photo by Ms Bakshi

Party came second with 22% and the Friendship party came last with 9%.

With a version of Alternative Vote the results were closer, with 44% of the vote going to the Recreational Party, 33% going to the Learning Party and 23% going to the Friendship Party.

Members of the School Council are now charged with making some of the winning party manifesto work.

Teaching assistant Mrs Talbot commented: "It gave everyone a good insight into what the election was all about."



## More silverware for Finchley boys

By Lisa Omar and Chris Galvin

Finchley Rugby Club Under 9s and Under 10s took part in one of Essex's major rugby tournaments at Eton Manor on Sunday 25 April. The Under 9s, including Mo Galvin and Christopher Brown from St Theresa's RC School, East End Road, won all their pool games to reach the final where they were unlucky to lose 2-0 to Eton Manor.

The U10s, including Emmett Galvin and Stephen McCarthy, also from St Theresa's, dispatched Thurrock 9-1, Woodford 3-0 and South Woodham 6-0 to storm into the final. Chingford awaited and after 14 minutes of fantastic rugby, Finchley were victorious, winning 3-0. This brought an end to a very successful season for both sides.

## Fair in the square

The Fair in the Square takes place on Saturday 12 June between 12.30pm and 5.30pm in Pond Square, South Grove, Highgate. This is the day of the year when the heart of Highgate Village turns into a huge street party with entertainment and events for everyone.

Local ballet schools, dancers, singers and musicians will perform on the main stage together with a steel band and Bjorn Again topping the bill. Further highlights include the Dog Show, Highgate's Pearly King and Queen and madrigal singing in St Michael's churchyard. For up to the minute information visit [www.fairinthesquare.co.uk](http://www.fairinthesquare.co.uk).

## Runners

### make it big

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy stands to raise more than £30,000 thanks to the efforts of their intrepid team of runners who took part in the London Marathon in April.

The East Finchley charity, which has a world class reputation for the treatment of children with cerebral palsy, needs to fundraise to keep its doors open. Fundraising manager Kevin Gillespie said: "Most small charities are beginning to struggle in the recession so events like the marathon are more important to us than ever."

The weather was cooler than predicted and all 14 Bobath runners completed the 26.2 mile course. If you would like to support the charity please contact Kevin on 020 8444 3355.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### Why Woodcraft

### Folk are fun

Fourteen-year-old Millie Burgh is a keen member of The Woodcraft Folk, a national youth organisation. Here she explains why it's good fun.

The thing I am looking forward to most this summer is meeting new people, learning a variety of skills and partying at Venturer Camp. It is a camp for 13-15 year olds belonging to The Woodcraft Folk, held every three years.

The Woodcraft Folk isn't just a camping organisation, however. It is a youth organisation that holds group nights and camps for six to 16-year-olds (split into age-appropriate groups). The Central Barnet district meets on Friday evenings in East Finchley.

The aim of The Woodcraft Folk is to promote equality, peace, cooperation and social justice. We do a wide range of activities including art, cooking, performing arts, sports and debating to teach young

people valuable skills and improve their self confidence. I have made many new friends and learnt a lot during my time as a member and I love working with the younger groups as well as spending time with people my own age.

In my opinion the best part of The Woodcraft Folk is definitely the camps. As well as working cooperatively to cook, wash up and collect wood, you do a range of activities including walking and relaxing around the campfire.

For more information or to become a member of The Woodcraft Folk please contact Kate Brown on 020 8444 4652, email [brown.kate@btinternet.com](mailto:brown.kate@btinternet.com) or visit [www.cbwf.org.uk](http://www.cbwf.org.uk) or visit our stall at the East Finchley Festival on 20 June.

## Take a second look

We hear a lot about second-hand book and record stores struggling to compete with the online might of the likes of Amazon and eBay. Do second-hand book shops still have a place in today's world? Here, Brian Schwartz, of the Black Gull Bookshop on the High Road, says an emphatic yes:

Second-hand book selling is a funny business. You're not required, or at least not expected, to have the latest offering from publishers or be able to supply the book of the review you just read in your Sunday supplement but what is mandated is a sense of surprise.

Bumping into the unexpected should be the raison d'être of such a shop. It also needs a skilled buyer to avoid it being just a random collection of books sitting on shelves. Of course, the internet allows you to target and snatch almost any book you care to think of. Bullseye every time. This is a useful and necessary function but automatic bullseyes are not an Olympic sport.

### Serendipity

A good bookshop, on the other hand, offers something more subtle and satisfying.

It provides the opportunity to make contact with books you never thought you were interested in or even knew existed. Serendipity is the word that springs to mind to describe this process. Of course you might not find anything at all. You might win, you might not. The unpredictability of it all! Now that's a sport.

A bookshop should help define a neighbourhood by opening its doors to local talent, enthusiasms, and energy and to that end we invite anyone or any group wanting a platform to approach us with their ideas. In the past we have hosted Nina Conti, the stand-up comedian and ventriloquist, who gave us a work in progress, and most recently Jeff Robson reading from his new novel.

Black Gull Bookshop is open at 121 High Road seven days a week from 9.30am to 7pm.

## Plug and plant

Newstead Greenfingers is a project being started to create a fruit and vegetable patch in the grounds of the newly renovated nursery in Tarling Road.

The project has been initiated and led by a parent who sits on Newstead's advisory board, and who has raised funds to start a 'plug and plant' vegetable patch.

The healthy lifestyle aspect of the project complements the national agenda and it has been enthusiastically supported by the children's centre's manager and staff.

"We are aiming to work with the children, planting and growing a vegetable garden over the year (and beyond) giving us all an opportunity to learn about healthy eating and where our food really comes from. We hope to involve parents in family and weekend community planting, growing and picking sessions," said centre manager Sajni Sharma.

**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>