



Poetry goes before the judges

By Daphne Chamberlain
Twyford Avenue resident Hazel McBride loves poetry. An actress with a CV covering the theatre and well-known television series, she has often given readings at charity events. However, as a trained teacher she knows that many GCSE students find it the least attractive part of their course.

School English Scene, of which she is joint organiser, aims to overcome that obstacle by inviting schools to theatre-based performances of some of the poems on their syllabus. Hazel finds young actors who work with her to bring printed words to life.

With a few props and plenty of help from each other, these three actors compete for the votes of school audiences and judges for best interpretations of individual poems.

Some poems are always going to be more popular than others, but Hazel points out instances where performance matters enormously, turning something potentially "long, boring and incomprehensible" into something electrifying. Staging matters too. "The Yeats poem *The Song of the Old Mother* was never at all popular, but this year setting it to music improved its ratings hugely."

Each school gets a follow-up booklet and a CD. Since it began in 2007, the annual Poetry Show, which is backed by GCSE examiners, has extended its tour, with the 2010 production travelling all over the country.

Hazel commented: "What we know is that students often start to like the poetry part of their course more after coming to our show, and feel more confident that they can tackle poetry." To find out more, go to www.schoolenglishscene.co.uk.

Can you help?

The Animal Aid and Advice charity shop desperately needs volunteer helpers. If you are willing and able to do unpaid work involving various duties such as sorting, pricing and selling donated goods please contact them on 020 8444 6290 or pop into the shop at 48 High Road.



How to immobilise your mobile

By Janet Maitland

Officers from the Garden Suburb Safer Neighbourhood Team have helped over 120 young people to register their mobile phones and make them useless to thieves. PCs Carl Mercer and Matt Clee visited Christ's College Finchley, East End Road, and King Alfred's School, North End Road, NW11, at the end of March with a laptop set up to take details of the students' phones on www.immobilise.com.

This ensures that, if a phone is stolen, the real owner can be retraced if it is recovered. The phone will also be immobilised immediately once it is reported as lost or stolen. Carl and Matt also gave the pupils a range of useful crime prevention tips to protect their security, and at King Alfred School, some of the younger pupils were given the chance to sit in the officers' police car.

The Garden Suburb Safer Neighbourhood Team is based

in the same building as the East Finchley team at 113 High Road, East Finchley, London, N2 8AG. If you live in Hampstead Garden Suburb and wish to contact the Garden Suburb team about any crime issues, ring 020 7161 9016 or email GardenSuburb.snt@met.police.uk. If you live in East Finchley, ring 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Traders need a fair chance

By Diana Cormack

Parking controls usually hit the headlines when people are fighting against them, but one area in the locality wants some imposed, and soon. Aylmer Parade is adjacent to the busy A1 / A1000 junction and consists mostly of ground floor businesses with residential accommodation above. The road accessing the Parade runs parallel to the A1 and parking is free for all. However, you'd be lucky to find a space and this has led to potential customer numbers dropping considerably.

Paul Caulfield, of Green Electrical Wholesalers at 31 Aylmer Parade, told *THE ARCHER* that people using the tube station leave their cars there, as do nearby residents wishing to avoid charges for parking outside their homes and some taxis waiting for the next job. To add insult to injury, it took months for a dumped, untaxed car to be removed.

Appeals not working

Appeals to Haringey Council for a solution to the long-term parking problem have achieved little, as this year's approved programme does not contain provision for the consultation or introduction of parking measures along Aylmer Parade. However, it could be included on a list of areas for consideration in a

"stop and shop" scheme but traders are concerned that, in the present climate, businesses will close before any such scheme is launched.

Saeid Roodbari, of Surf Launderers and Dry Cleaners, told *THE ARCHER* that a service road behind the buildings was sold into private ownership several years ago and is now privately operated, with a long waiting list for expensive parking places. He would like the shop front road to have timed bays for shoppers, pick-up and delivery. Mr Roodbari is extremely concerned about the suffering businesses and is very disappointed at the lack of response he has had from the local authority and from MPs over the years. "Because we have no voice, we shouldn't die," he said.

Special week for children's hospice

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice will be launching Children's Hospice Week in style on Saturday 15 May with a prestigious Casino Night on board HMS President, London. As part of Children's Hospice Week, the Enfield-based hospice is also hosting a Hero in Disguise competition which is open to all schools in the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield, Islington and Camden.

To bring the week to a close, Noah's Ark will be holding a skydive in Bicester on Saturday 22 May and will be attending the Hospices in Harmony music event on Sunday 23 May. For further information, please contact Amy Walker in the fundraising department on 020 8449 8877 or awalker@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

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