



Grange Estate children speak out

By Diana Cormack

At the end of July The Grange was one of four estates in the borough visited by the "love where you live" summer road show, organised by Barnet Homes. The aim was to clean up and improve the neighbourhood, with residents and housing organisation representatives working together.

Staff left their offices to meet residents face to face, listen to their ideas and find out what they felt was needed. The event also provided people with the opportunity to receive advice and information directly from council officers.

Playing close to home

The road show was held at the Brownsell Road play area and some local children took advantage of the occasion to present their own ideas by writing letters to the visitors from the council. They would like to have their own play facilities in the quadrangle formed by the blocks of flats where they live, Elmfield, Fossett and Sycamore House, where parents and carers would be able to keep an eye on them.

Their original plan of converting two boarded-up caretaker's storage rooms into a

recreation area and a study room seems to be far too expensive. Now the youngsters are hoping to raise money for outdoor play materials such as basketball nets, exercise equipment and a paddling pool. One eight year old girl told *THE ARCHER* that she would like to help by doing a sponsored swim, washing cars or making fairy cakes to sell.

A local resident said the children, whose ages ranged from seven to early teens, played well together and looked out for each other but the older boys in particular needed something to do. A well-equipped community flat nearby, however, contains a range of activities including computers, table tennis, snooker, drawing materials, etc, which are available for young people to use under adult supervision.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Cuisine extraordinaire

I've got nothing against squirrel. It makes an eco-friendly Christmas treat, preferably casseroled with hazelnuts a la Delia, but I didn't know that a Budgens manager over in Crouch End agreed with me. So here's a few more suggestions for culinary insanity.

Peru is a good place to start. Why Peru? Guinea pigs, that's why. What we think of as a pet, the average Peruvian thinks of as lunch. Guinea pigs are easy to grow, breed quickly and taste a bit like rabbit. You can fry it, roast it or chuck it on the barbecue. And in Peru they get through 65 million of them a year.

They're cute enough to get Sophie Dahl involved, probably stroking one while smiling sweetly. All you need do is get her on TV discussing the best sauce to serve with it so you can create a romantic dinner for two and next thing you know half of East Finchley will be enthusiastically selecting a Chilean Chardonnay to go with it.

But why go to Peru when there's edible wild life closer to home? Badgers might be seriously cute, but farmers and Jeremy Clarkson want to kill them. The solution? Badger stew. Entice your badger out into the open with the promise of an up close and personal experience with Kate Humble, whack it over the head and hand it over to those beardy blokes on motorbikes, add carrots and onions and there's lunch. If that's too dull you could go all Nigella and get inventive. Maybe you could roast it and serve it like suckling pig, but with a pomegranate where the apple usually goes.

Why go out into the country when exotic cooking is only walkies away? Yes, I'm talking Korean cuisine. I'm talking about the life-affirming properties of dog soup. The only problem has been getting the vital ingredient, dog. Now the solution is at hand. The police keep on arresting dangerous dogs, Battersea Dogs Home is full of unwanted, mad pitbulls that are too dangerous to let anywhere near humans. The answer is just a recipe book away. Get Jamie Oliver in on the act and the problem's solved. Chien au vin, anybody?



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Father Hill retires after 33 years at Holy Trinity

By Angela Anderson

In a moving sermon, his last before retiring from Holy Trinity church after 33 years as priest, Father Laurence Hill spoke about his faith and relationship with the church as a journey of pilgrimage. Starting as a choirboy, aged seven, and then server at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, had a profound influence on him and led him to seek ordained ministry within the Anglican Church. He studied at King's College, London, and came to Holy Trinity church in January 1977.

Remodelling the building

During his time there he oversaw the re-ordering of the church in 1991. An advertisement in *The Stage* newspaper led to bookings for the church hall from drama groups and eventually a theatre company which stayed for three years. However, the church was built in 1846 and eventually needed expensive repairs so the decision was taken to sell the hall. The resulting funds were used to remodel the church's interior, creating a lounge, gallery and kitchen. A local Hindu group, Depala, bought the hall and Christianity and Hinduism have existed side by side for nearly 20 years.

Looking back at his time in East Finchley, Father Hill feels that one major change was the disappearance of many local businesses, such as engineering firms and a printers, and an increase in the number of good cafes and restaurants in the High Road.

Importance of pastoral role

He and his wife Atsuko plan to rent a flat in London as she continues with her piano teaching and they will also live in their cottage in North Wales. Having been here since he



Fr Laurence Hill. Photo by Angela Anderson

was 19, Father Hill feels that leaving London would be a big step. "I don't know how it feels not to live in London," he said. "Maybe Dr Johnson was right in saying 'A man who is tired of London is tired of life'"

Though having a building as

old as Holy Trinity to refurbish had been stimulating, great fun and hard work for many people, the heart of his experience as priest, he said, had been his pastoral role with the people in the parish and the children at Holy Trinity School.

Barnet drops letters about Neighbourhood Skip services

Not all local residents were able to make use of Barnet Council's Neighbourhood Skip service on 20 July. A reader in Baronsmere Road told *THE ARCHER* that she did not receive a letter informing her about it and, judging by the small amount collected in her area, she believed that other people were not notified either.

When she called the council to enquire about this she learned that it was the last time residents would be informed by hand delivered letter. In future, information regarding the twice yearly Neighbourhood Skip provision will be available online, at local libraries, published in local newspapers or obtainable from Barnet's Street Based Services Unit on 020 8359 4600. You can visit www.barnet.gov.uk/street-cleaning-programme for details of the next N2 collection, scheduled for February 2011.

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