



New vision for Stanley Road Playing Fields

Look out for a website, due to be launched on 2 April, which will feature sketches of the proposals for Stanley Field, as well as news and information about the campaign to keep it as a community sports facility. Visit www.stanleyroadsports.org.

THE ARCHER understands that the Stanley Road Playing Field Campaign Committee is working on a scheme for the site outlined and approved at a public meeting in February. As reported in our March edition, this would combine indoor and outdoor multi-use facilities.

Roger Chapman, Chair of the Campaign said: "Positive discussions have been held with Sport England, the London Marathon Trust and other sports bodies. Plans are being drawn up by local architects and a business planning consultant employed to draft a bid document to be submitted to Barnet Council before the end of May. A new Charitable Trust is being established which, if the bid is successful, would run the site.

"We are drawing up a sus-

tainable and viable scheme for Stanley Road to keep it for continued sports and recreational use. We will need support from the local community when we put the bid in to Barnet Council and will give more details of how local people can support that bid in the next edition of THE ARCHER and on our website."

Information can also be found on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Stanley-Road-Playing-Field-East-Finchley/200473973296586. A comment on the Facebook page says: "This is an opportunity to provide East Finchley with a viable Sports Centre, let the 2012 spirit live!"

You can also contact the committee by calling Rob Robertson on 020 8883 4916.

East Finchley Festival fights on

The East Finchley Community Festival Committee has declared that, come what may, this year's festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 19 June will remain free and take place between 12 noon and 6pm.

In February, Barnet Council announced a substantial hike in charges for the use of parks for events such as the festival. Negotiations about the level of these newly imposed charges continue between Barnet Council and the festival committee.

Roger Chapman, of the festival committee, said: "There is no way that we are going to let these new charges stop our successful and free community festival. We will redouble our efforts to put on a free festival that attracts all the family.

"The festival has never been grant aided by Barnet Council and is run entirely by local volunteers. On the day at least 50 volunteers are needed to sell raffle tickets, steward the event or help in the bar."

If you can spare an hour during the day and make a contribution to the success of the festival, telephone 07983 360 834 or e-mail eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com. Keep in touch with the discussions with the Council on the festival Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pages/East-Finchley-Festival/270157876374

Barnet appoints new Mayor

The 47th Mayor of Barnet will be Councillor Lisa Rutter, who has represented the Brunswick Park ward since 2006 and has lived in the borough for 26 years.

Her husband Mark will be her consort and her Deputy Mayor will be Councillor Barry Evangeli, supported by his mother Dora as his escort. Councillor Rutter will take up her post after the annual meeting of the council on 17 May.

Dyspraxia

By Daphne Chamberlain

Alastair Hamilton has had trouble getting paid work. Despite being honest and conscientious, he has been told he is too slow. He says he feels put down very easily, as people patronise him and are not patient enough. Alastair suffers from dyspraxia.

Dyspraxia affects the planning of what to do and how to do it. Children with this condition struggle with everyday tasks like tying shoe-laces or doing up buttons. Often untidy and disorganised, they may also find it difficult to process language or to remember what people have told them. They are, though, generally of average or above average intelligence.

"Clumsy child"

About 6% of us are thought to be dyspraxic (2% severely), and many people may be slightly affected without knowing it.

For example, I've always found remembering demonstrations of actions difficult, and will never forget my school-girl self struggling to fold up a deckchair while neighbours looked on.

That humiliation was just a taste of what people like Alastair have to endure. In severe cases, dyspraxic children need the help of a team of therapists.

Achievements

Alastair has achieved many things to be proud of, including arranging and singing solo in a concert at St Michael's Church, Highgate, in aid of the Dyspraxia Foundation.

He works as a volunteer with blind people, and has done voluntary work as a cashier in charity shops. To make the grade in a career, he simply needs time and understanding. Currently, he is working



part-time as a housekeeper in a Barnet care home, where the supportive manager is easing him into the job gradually. It is still early days, but Alastair believes he can do the work and likes the people.

Find out more about people like Alastair at www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk. The Dyspraxia Foundation is a registered charity financed through

membership subscriptions and private donations. It has local groups, usually run by parents of dyspraxic children, and an adult group called DANDA.

Conferences, Dyspraxia Awareness Week, and initiatives such as the film launched by Trevor McDonald, are gradually making more people aware of the condition and how to live with it.

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