



Open the page on a new library

By Jean Bailey

As we in Barnet battle to keep our libraries open, the parishioners of St Mary's Catholic Church in the High Road have been supporting the Aysanew Kassa Trust this year to build a library in Azezo, a town in Ethiopia that has never had one before.

Readers may recall the ARCHER article in August 2010 about the Aysanew Kassa Trust [Our Dream: a public library in Ethiopia]. Since then lots has happened and the trust is well on its way to reaching its target of £60,000. This means the walls are up and the roof is on; doors and windows are going in as we go to press. The aim is to complete the library and open it in October this year! If you want to check on the overall progress there is a display in the church porch or on the AKT website www.aysanew.org. We still need to raise the last £10,000, however: can you help?

Making a difference

This small charity has already shown how co-operation between individuals, statutory agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) can make a difference to the lives and health of individuals, their families and their community. The children of Azezo are a testament to what can be achieved. In the words of one: "You have changed my life forever." The heart of the charity's work is to ensure the education of children in this poor part of Africa; the charity focuses especially on providing access to education for girls and those high achievers who would otherwise be too poor to complete their education.

Royal wedding street party

The bunting will be out in Hertford Road on the day of the Royal wedding on 29 April. A group of residents are organising a street party to celebrate the occasion and, they say, "the Small Society".

Other parties may be happening around East Finchley. Let us know if there's going to be one in your road and we'll give it some coverage.

The parishioners of St Mary's invite all of East Finchley to help complete the library by coming to support a fun day on the afternoon of Sunday 22 May. Please support us on the day or contact us on 020 8883 8722 or email aysanewkassa@hotmail.



The interactive map of Coldfall Wood is launched at Coldfall School. Photo by Keith Good

Pop up to the wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

If you go down to the Coldfall Wood website today you're sure of a big surprise, as the old song has it. The Friends of Coldfall Wood have installed a new interactive online map, designed by Miranda Waugh of communications agency AskAuk and backed by Haringey's Make the Difference Fund. The map can be downloaded and printed for walkers, but has a number of other features, too.

An enthusiastic group of Friends, local people, Haringey councillors and representatives of community groups attended the map launch on Tuesday 1 March. Miranda Waugh and Friends' Chair Julia Cassells showed how the map works. 'Pop-ups' highlight points of interest such as significant trees or the ancient ditch and bank, and a historical feature lets users see how the wood has changed size, shape and function over 150 years.

Learning resource

Earlier, Miranda along with Deborah Dudgeon, one of the Friends, introduced the map to teachers at two local primary schools, Martin and Coldfall,

and at Fortismere secondary school. They reported extremely positive responses from all the schools, with teachers planning to use the map in history, geography, citizenship and outdoor activities.

Local people with long memories may have their own unique stories and photos of Coldfall Wood. The Friends are hoping to collect these and to incorporate them into the map. Eventually, sound recordings, photos and wildlife sightings could be uploaded to create a wealth of additional features.

View the map at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk/map and to pass on reminiscences and old pictures please contact info@coldfallwoods.co.uk.



Pavement Pounders founders David Lay and Dr Maryanne Traylen

Talks and walks

For walkers who like to learn about the history of the area they are visiting, Pavement Pounders Community Interest Company explores the heritage on our doorstep.

Founders Dr Maryanne Traylen and David Lay are respectively a writer and an artist, and both are teachers. For several years they have been providing walks and talks for The Institute, exploring the artistic and literary history of Hampstead and Highgate.

These events happen on a Saturday and the usual format is a one-hour illustrated talk and discussion in the classroom followed by a two-hour guided walk exploring the haunts of the artists and writers discussed. The aim is to accentuate the local connections while showing links with the wider world.

John Constable may have lived much of his adult life in Hampstead but his landscape paintings are appreciated by all. Similarly, Samuel Taylor Coleridge who lived the last 16 years of his life in Highgate, is a major figure in English literature.

This academic year, Pavement Pounders have offered eight talks and walks. Recent walks have included *Landscape and Patriotism*, where the group looked at the English landscape painting tradition, including a trip to the National Gallery rather than a walk, and on 26 March the talk and walk was *Constable and Hampstead*, which explored the sites in NW3 where our greatest landscape painter lived and painted.

Contact The Institute for further details. For 2011-12, Pavement Pounders plan to include talks, walks and gallery visits that explore Kenwood House.

Cromwell Hall Residents' Association

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