



How do you want the Old Barn to be used?

We reported in our last issue that the future of the Old Barn Centre in Tarling Road is in the balance. Now there is a chance for you to put your views on how you would like the centre to be used.

The Old Barn Action Group would like to hear from anyone interested in bringing the building back into local control for the benefit of local people. The group is holding meetings at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, on 10 and 24 February at 10am for people to give their ideas.

The centre was previously a hub for youth groups, including the popular Monday Club but they moved out after the management of the centre was taken on by the Old Barn Youth and Community Association (OBYCA), whose director is Reverend Geoffrey Muhoro.

Lack of publicity

Rev Muhoro was the sole representative of OBYCA at

a meeting to discuss the centre on 8 January. Five members of the action group attended but no one else. They claimed local residents had not received any leaflets announcing the meeting.

William Hudson, of the action group, said Rev Muhoro informed them that he was negotiating with a company from east London to provide a range of services.

The action group hopes to hold an open day on Sunday 13 March somewhere near the Old Barn for all young people and local residents who want to bring the building back to life. In the meantime, the ideas meetings will be held at the Green Man Centre on the dates above.

Nursery open morning

Holy Trinity Nursery is holding an open morning on Wednesday 28 March for all parents and carers, together with children.

The nursery offers 52 places in total, 26 places in the morning session (8.50am to 11.50am) and 26 places in the afternoon session (12.30pm to 3.30pm). Nursery children can extend their day using breakfast and after school clubs run by the school in the main building.

Approval

Holy Trinity says that last year's open morning received great feedback from visitors who thought the nursery was well run, well organised

and friendly. When OfSTED visited in October 2009, they noted that 'activities are interesting and exciting and the children enjoy all they do'.

More details on admissions criteria are included in the school prospectus at www.holytrinityschool.org.uk.

Applications for admission to nursery for children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 close on 6 May 2011. Forms are available at the open morning and from the website above.

Coronation fun and games

By Daphne Chamberlain
1937 was Coronation year for George VI, whose struggle against stammering is the story of the Oscar-tipped film *The King's Speech*.

On 13 May that year, Finchley Schools held a Coronation Sports Day. The Finchley Society has the programme, with competitors listed by school. Did you, or anyone you know, take part? If so, The Finchley Society

would love to know.

The Society is also looking for anyone who has memories of "The Sleeping Shepherd", a pageant in the grounds of Avenue House on 13 and 15 May 1937. An advertisement of the time describes it as "a charming pastoral of 1850 in an old world setting - dancing and singing, laughter and gaiety".

If you can help fill in details for either of these events, please contact localhistory@finchleysociety.org.uk or tell us at *THE ARCHER*, and we will pass it on.

Winter wood work

The sun shone down on the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood when they gathered in the wood on 12 December for another volunteering day. About two-dozen volunteers, including young children and grandparents, spent the day building deadwood fencing, picking litter, cutting back hazel and hornbeam trees to encourage new growth, and planting over 100 new tree saplings.



Friends building fences. Photo courtesy Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust and include elder, crab apple, hazel, blackthorn and dog rose. All have edible fruits and flowers that can be used in a variety of ways (for example, crab apple jelly, elderflower cordial, rosehip jam and sloe gin), providing a very useful

additional amenity in the wood in the years to come. Working enthusiastically to dig through the frozen soil, or to hammer in fence posts, the volunteers certainly didn't feel the cold. Charles Parkes, who once again planned the day and led the team, made sure even the novices could contribute, teaching how to coppice a tree or weave the felled branches into deadwood fencing that will protect the areas of new saplings until they are fully established. The day was rounded off with warm mince pies in the orchard.

Shoppers dig deep

By Sippy Azizollah
On Christmas Eve I had the great pleasure of holding a fundraiser in aid of the North London Hospice at Budgens. I had a table set with chocolates, donated by Elaine Merrin, and mince pies, and hot mugs of tea to keep me going. It was a fantastic day with all of you helping me to raise money for this very worthy cause.

The hospice is for the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. Their fundraising manager Judy Guy told me that the running costs for this year will be £6 million, and that they depend on people's kindness and voluntary donations to keep providing valuable respite for life-limited patients and their families.

She was thrilled at seeing the amount we'd raised when I presented her with a cheque for £270. To all of you in East Finchley who gave their time, money and smiles on Christmas Eve, thank you so much! I couldn't have done this without you.

Gardening for the brain

There is a proposal to develop a regular session at the Meadow Orchard project in Park Road, N8, for people interested in gardening, wildlife and conservation who also have dementia.

The project would be for people with dementia who live in Barnet, Enfield or Haringey. It could be of particular value in cases of young onset dementia, for which there is very little support.

To express interest or for further information, please contact Lynn Molloy, Haringey Memory Assessment and Treatment Project Group, Victoria Day Unit, St Ann's Hospital, N15 3TH. Tel: 020 8442 6727 or 6109. Email lynn.molloy@beh-mht.nhs.uk.

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