



Out and about with a pram

By Alisha Johnston

Last May I found myself joining the ranks of First Time Mums. Having commuted from East Finchley for many years, I knew little about N2 on weekdays from 9 to 5. Its streets become the domain of new mums going to and from play groups, meeting for coffee or just trying to get the baby to sleep.

In those early months I needed to get out of the house to save my sanity. So I found myself joining the pram-pushing brigade, tramping the local streets, walking round the solace of Cherry Tree Wood and sipping tea at the Lazy Sally Kiosk.

As time went by, I could clock up more miles and was always looking for a change of scene. So here's my list of local spots if you want to walk somewhere different (whether or not you are pushing a pram).

Key: BC (known to have baby changing facilities), PG (playground). Please note kiosks and cafes may be closed in winter.

- **Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley (BC/PG/kiosk)**
www.cherrytreewood.co.uk
Entry opposite East Finchley tube station.

- **Coldfall Wood, East Finchley**
www.coldfallwoods.co.uk
Entry off Creighton Avenue, East Finchley.

- **Long Lane Pasture, Finchley**
Entry off Long Lane opposite the fire station.

- **Avenue House, Finchley (BC/PG/ kiosk closed until spring)**
www.avenuehouse.org.uk
Entry off East End Road.

- **Highgate Wood, Muswell Hill (BC/PG/café).**

Entry off Muswell Hill Road, Lancaster Road, or Archway Road. Walk through Cherry Tree Wood or take bus 143 towards Archway Station or 263 towards Nags Head, or 234 towards Highgate Wood / Sussex Gardens and alight at Highgate Tube.

- **Queens Wood, Muswell Hill, (café), www.fqw.org.uk.**

Entry off Muswell Hill Road. You can also walk through Highgate Wood to get there.

- **Alexandra Palace Park, Muswell Hill (PG/café)**

www.alexandrapalace.org.uk. Take bus 102 towards Edmon-ton Green Bus Station or 234 towards Barnet/Spires Shopping Centre and alight at Muswell Hill. Walk down Dukes Avenue and entry is on the right. Also free parking at Alexandra Palace Park.

- **Lyttleton Playing Fields, parallel to the A1 (PG)**

This is part of the Capital Ring, www.walklondon.org.uk.

- **Waterlow Park, Highgate (PG/ cafe open Tue-Sun)**

www.waterlowpark.org.uk. Entry off Highgate High Street or Swains Lane. Take bus 143 towards Archway Station and alight at Highgate Village.

- **Big Wood, Hampstead Garden Suburb.**

Entry off Oakwood Road, NW11.

- **Heath Extension, Hampstead Garden Suburb.**

Entry off Wildwood Road or Hampstead Way, NW11.

- **Golders Hill Park, Golders Green (BC/PG/café/ small zoo).**

Take bus H2 or 102 to Golders Green tube station, then it's a five-minute walk up North End Road turning right into West Heath Avenue.

Do you have your own favourite pram-pushing destination? Write to us at the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Mummy Zumba

New classes for Zumba, a Latin-American dance-based fitness class, have started in East Finchley aimed specifically at mums with babies.

Mums can bring their prams and leave them at the side of the room while they enjoy exercise classes with West End dancer AJ O'Neill. There are also baby-changing facilities.

The classes take place on Wednesdays at 3pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, and cost £7 a class, with reduced rates for block bookings. For more details, contact AJ on 07738 968408.

YOUNG ARCHER



Santa enjoyed his refurbished grotto at the Martin School fair.

VIP guest at school fair

By Rachel Ellis

Hundreds of parents, pupils and local residents visited the Martin school's Christmas Fair on Saturday 11 December, giving the event a real buzz. A particular hit was Santa's splendid new grotto which had been given a major revamp for the fair.

For the first time, candy floss was on sale, which proved very popular, and there was also an indoor bouncy castle. The school choir, the Year 6 band and the recorder group

all gave wonderful performances, and there were some amazing outfits in the Fancy Dress Competition.

The event, organised by the Parent Teacher Association, raised £4,400 for the school. It was sponsored by GLH and Prickett and Ellis, and received generous donations from Budgens, Hughes Design and J G Bryson, Printer, who provided the programmes.

Headteacher Helen Morrison said: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the day. There was a fantastic turnout and I'm so grateful to the whole community for supporting the event."

PARENT & BABY/ CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Coffee & Kids, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ Dads' Club: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ EF National Childbirth Trust contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ Parent & Toddler Group, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ Stepping Stones, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

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Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>