



Martin and Holy Trinity Schools battle it out. Photo by Diana Cormack

Football fever on Stanley Road Field

By Joseph Johnson, Year 6 Martin School

On Tuesday 24 May, two teams of five from Martin School set off to a tournament, hosted by Holy Trinity School, in favour of keeping Stanley Road Field for community use.

From 4pm to 5.30pm the players battled it out in the blazing afternoon sunshine and we are proud that our pupils finished second and third out of the four places, with Holy Trinity teams in first and fourth places.

Throughout the past year teams from Martin school have competed in tournaments of many kinds. This was one of the most important as it has raised the awareness of the public about how essential and critical it is to keep a field or park for further generations.

A substantial number of spectators turned up for the

fixture. It was a positive sign for the field, as well as being encouraging for us players. After the award ceremony the crowd went home but nobody was going to forget the field and we hope you don't either.

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Bid to buy Stanley Road Field

Sport East Finchley has formally submitted its bid to purchase the freehold of Stanley Road Playing Field from Barnet Council. The bid, backed by Sport England, the London Marathon Trust, Pentland Brands Ltd, Hallett Retail and a host of sports bodies, local businesses, voluntary groups and individuals, would continue the 100-year history of sport and recreation use on the site.

Roger Chapman, Chair of Sport East Finchley, said: "This bid is 'Localism' at work. Local people have taken the initiative and used their skills to draw up an exciting scheme that will bring back this underused playing field for sport and recreation use.

"It's the Big Society in action, leading to a London 2012 sports legacy for this part of North London. We now wait for Barnet Council to embrace the Localism agenda."

Eleven key points are put forward in the document to demonstrate the need for such facilities in East Finchley and to show the benefits that the proposed facilities will bring:

- 70,000 adults live within 20 minutes' walk of the site.
- East Finchley is highlighted by Barnet Council as an area deficient in open space; although there are plenty of public football pitches and tennis courts in Barnet, the quality of the facilities are poor with limited or no changing facilities.
- The facility will help Barnet

Council to meet its new public health agenda through improving individual physical and mental health.

- There is a high level of community interest in new sports facilities especially tennis, football, jogging and outdoor gym facilities.

- The proposed scheme offers 126 hours of football, 231 hours of tennis and 37 hours on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) each week.

- In addition, the scheme will offer local schools 105 hours of football and 35 hours of MUGA usage each week.

- The site will offer opportunities for up to 1,900 people a week to play sports.

- The outdoor gym equipment and jogging trail will be available to use free of charge throughout the week.

- The scheme will include community meeting facilities.

- Facilities will be priced at an affordable level to encourage usage by all members of the community.

- The site will be financially self-sufficient once operational.

Sport East Finchley has a funder, the London Marathon Trust, who will purchase the site as well as make a substantial contribution to the provision of site facilities. SEF continues to build support and is working with other funders including Sport England and the Lawn Tennis Association. A full copy of the bid can be found at: www.stanleyroadsports.org

Schoolgirl memories of Bletchley Park

By Paula Sanders

I was sent away to boarding school at around 10 years old. The school was in an old manor house in very spacious grounds with a lake. It was called Little Brick Hill Manor, in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, adjacent to Bletchley Park where the wartime codebreaking operation was based.

We didn't have a clue about what was going on there, but we knew that something was. There were always police with alsatians about, and everything was very hush-hush.

History and hearsay

Two incidents really stick in my memory. While out on our daily walk to the local forest, we came to a sudden stop because of a line of US army cars coming towards us. All the troops on motorcycles cheered when they saw us in our school uniforms, and saluted us as they passed. It was quite embarrassing. Apparently there were heads of state in the cars going to attend a meeting. Our teacher remarked that history would be made that day. Some of the staff were going out with policemen, so they must have got wind of it.

When we returned there was much excitement in the school as shots had been heard in the grounds by Bletchley Park. Rumour had it that a German spy had been captured.

We later heard that a man's body had been dragged from a lake. It was all hearsay from staff as we were not supposed to know what was going on. It went round the school like wildfire and nobody went to sleep that night.

That night, my little radio played Deanna Durbin singing Lights of Home, and I sat crying because I felt homesick and upset. Even today I can't hear that song without a lump in my throat. The rest of the time was very quiet by comparison, but our teacher's prediction was certainly accurate.

Postman Bob's 42 years on the same round

By Diana Cormack

On Saturday 4 June residents of seven roads held a farewell party to mark the retirement of their postman Robert Konig. Postman Bob has worked on the same round in N2 since January 1969, delivering to Annington, Baronsmere, Ingram, Laurdale, Lynmouth and Southern Roads and Shakespeare Gardens.

Over the years good humoured Bob has become an integral part of life in these streets, being dedicated to his round whatever the weather (*THE ARCHER* pictured Bob battling through the snow in February 2010). He has always had time for his customers, showing them care and concern and building up a special relationship valued by the whole community.

This was reflected in the number attending the event at the Aquarius Archery Club, with an estimated 300 people filling the clubhouse and crowding onto the lawn outside.

Village postman

Party organisers Martin Page, John Michaelides and Roger May weren't surprised that so many came, carrying delicious food and drink, in honour of the man they called their "village postman". They already knew Bob was held in high esteem because of the generous amount local people had given towards a collection for him. Many of the well-wishers had also contributed personal memories of Bob along with



Bob makes the front page!

Photo by Diana Cormack

written tokens of gratitude and thanks which were presented to him in the form of a book. Its cover was a mock-up front page of the June *ARCHER* carrying the story "Bob's Last Post", a witty and amusing version of Bob's working life story by local resident Simon Hattenstone of the Guardian.

Bob was praised in genuinely moving terms by his work colleagues and by the residents he has served so willingly and well. One speaker described him as "a thoroughly decent and well-respected person". Clearly, this very special postman will be much missed in the neighbourhood.

East Finchley Baptist Church

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