



Eva Schloss talking to children. Photo courtesy of Manorside School

Eva Schloss visits Manorside

By Daphne Chamberlain

Manorside School welcomed a special visitor at the end of March. Eva Schloss, the stepsister of Anne Frank, spoke to Years 5 and 6 about her experience as a Jewish child before the Second World War, about living in hiding in Nazi-occupied Holland, and about surviving the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Her story was grim, but her message was positive.

"I am a very happy person," she told them. "Enjoy life. Never give up hope, and remember it is very important to have no prejudice. If a person is decent, accept them, whoever they are."

Eva's family knew the Franks before they all had to go into hiding. She remembers Anne as a lively chatterbox, interested in clothes, fashion and boys, and keen to demonstrate her double-jointed shoulder. Anne, her mother and sister all died in the death camps, but her father Otto survived and married Eva's mother after the war.

Survival through memory

Anne wrote, "When I die, I would like to live on." As we know, she has. Her father and her diary have kept her memory alive. Otto often said, "Whatever you have done in life, somebody will remember".

Eva's father and her very talented and creative brother Heinz, did not survive either, but

Eva remembered that Heinz had hidden 30 of his paintings before being taken to Auschwitz. When she and her mother retrieved them, Eva knew too that all that Heinz and Pappy had given her could never be taken away.

The Manorside children gave Eva a wonderful welcome, listened attentively to everything she told them, and asked her some very thoughtful questions. Their comments at the end included, "Powerful", "Sad", "Inspirational", "Don't leave people out", "Never give up hope". They will remember Eva's message.

Eva Schloss is now 82 but full of energy and with a great gift of communication. She lives in London and often speaks to schools. She has written two books, *Eva's Story* (ISBN 0-952-3716-93) and *The Promise* (ISBN 978-0-14-132081-6). See next month's ARCHER for the children's writing inspired by Eva's visit.

Barnet Civic Award Winners 2011

By Diana Cormack

At the end of March, 57 people from the borough were recipients of a Barnet Civic Award. This annual event honours residents who have made a significant contribution to borough life in a voluntary capacity. All are secretly nominated by fellow residents.

THE ARCHER has tracked down three modest East Finchley award winners (if you know of any more, please let us know. Our contact details are on page 2). In alphabetical order they are: Roger Chapman, Helen Drake and Brian Hooper.

Roger, of Summerlee Avenue, has been involved in many local events and is at present striving to save the Stanley Field as a centre for local use. He is also one of the hard working volunteers organising the East Finchley Community Festival on 19 June.

Helen, of Chandos Road, has worked tirelessly at Martin Primary School where she spent six years on the governing body of which she was Chair, successfully guiding this large and diverse school

through many changes. In her continuing pursuit of better outcomes for children, Helen now supports local families in improving secondary school choices.

Brian's fundraising has featured in THE ARCHER, most recently in March when he was pictured handing over a cheque for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Since October 2008, Brian, of Fortis Green, has organised a weekly Tuesday night quiz at The Old White Lion pub. He has also run raffles and events in aid of a number of charities with many businesses on the High Road generously supplying the prizes. With their help, and that of customers and staff at the pub, Brian has so far raised over £6,500.

Congratulations to all of the winners!



Brian Hooper receiving his award

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Visitors always welcome

Keep burglars at bay

By Janet Maitland

Burglars are opportunists and will take any chance they are given. But if you follow some simple police advice while spring cleaning and sorting out your garden after winter, you can make things a lot more difficult for them.

Plant prickly plants like holly and berberis under windows and next to boundaries. The prospect of climbing over them or pushing through them can be unappealing enough to make a would-be burglar move on to somewhere easier.

Make sure that fencing at the front of your property is not so high it provides cover for people trying to hide, but keep it high at the back to make it harder to get over; add some trellis on the top as this makes it more difficult to climb. Make sure side and back gates have good quality locks.

Think about putting gravel on drives and paths instead of concrete: it's an excellent burglar deterrent because it's so noisy to walk on.

The most common way for burglars to break in is to use the owner's own tools. So, if you've got a shed, lock your tools away. If you don't, keep your tools indoors.

Always lock your windows when you go out. When you're indoors, close downstairs windows whenever you leave the room; it only takes a few seconds for someone to reach in and grab something.

Appeal over cemetery plan

By Daphne Chamberlain
A plan to build alongside the cemetery gatehouse at 320 High Road is active again. In December, Barnet Council ruled against an additional development on the neighbouring site, which would have meant a two-storey building going up just a few feet from its windows. Now the developer has appealed to the Government Planning Inspectorate, which was what no.320's owner Iggy Mascarenhas had feared.

The previous applications were to build a three-storey block of flats, which Barnet rejected but the Government Planning Inspectorate allowed. That block is now under construction and the proposed building would be an annexe. Barnet ruled that the extension would mean overdevelopment of the site.

When he heard of the appeal, Mr Mascarenhas commented, "Here we go again". The decision will be made this month.



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