



Central home for sport (continued from page 1)

The plan for the site includes a three-court tennis bubble, a multi-use games area, three all-weather pitches to at least FIFA Football turf one-star quality, and a 400m perimeter jogging or walking path with outdoor gym facilities.

There will be car parking and a community space, potentially incorporating a café, nursery or meeting rooms.

In addition, informal activities including recreational running, jogging, an outdoor gym and outdoor table tennis could also be catered for.

Reading and games at the library

By Lily Hart, aged 11
Local children were joined by Anne-Marie Conway and Jonny Zucker at the East Finchley Library on 2 April for an afternoon of fun drama.

The event was organised by Polly Napper and East Finchley Library Users Group to promote and celebrate our library. Barnet Council has just announced that East Finchley branch is safe this year though sadly two other branches will be shut.

The afternoon started off with children's author Anne-Marie and some fun drama and name games. Anne-Marie then read an exciting scene from *Polly Plays Her Part*, the first in her trilogy of Star-Makers Club books (my little sister Ruby's favourites!).

The afternoon continued with Jonny Zucker, who used East Finchley Library as a child. He started off with the first magic trick ever to be recorded in history (the Cup-and-Ball trick from Egypt). He showed the children some of the books where he finds his inspiration for writing, then quizzed them on the amazing trick pictures, and generously donated free books to the library for correct answers. I was really impressed by a mind reading trick he performed in which he correctly guessed the card chosen by Molly from Martin Primary School.

The afternoon came to an end with a cheerful photo-call. You can see the result with this article!

East Finchley Library saved from cuts

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library will live to fight another day. Following a period of consultation, Barnet Council has decided to keep our library open. In fact, Cllr Robert Rams, Barnet Cabinet Minister for Libraries and Museums, is considering extending opening hours and increasing stock.

Polly Napper, the driving force behind East Finchley Library Users Group, is "absolutely delighted", but urges us all to keep visiting and borrowing. Polly and EFLUG were praised by local Councillor Andrew McNeil, who said that their efforts to raise the library's profile had been a very important contribution towards keeping our library open.

News for some other branches is not so good. Hampstead Garden Suburb Library has been recommended for closure, with some indication of mobile provision. The public in Friern Barnet and the North Finchley / Whetstone areas will also lose their local branches. The council plan is to combine them, possibly inside artsdepot, in what MP Mike Freer describes as "a brand new flagship library". Church End (Finchley Central) Library is also to be rehoused, though where is not clear.

Burdensome

The national trend in library provision is towards

'flagship' libraries, usually in large shopping centres, while smaller local branches are being closed. At the moment, the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964 states that local councils must provide a 'comprehensive and efficient library service' but leaves those terms very vague. The Government is currently considering which services should remain the responsibility of local councils and which are too 'burdensome' and should be put on the market. The website www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/reviewstatutoryduties/ makes clear that libraries could be regarded as "burdensome".

Until the end of last month, the public were being invited to give their opinions, which EFLUG members have been doing. Keep up to date with developments at www.eflug.org.uk or their Facebook page www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_202928423070042, or contact Polly at pollynapper@btinternet.com.

A friendly welcome awaits you

EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)
tel: 0208 346 1700 www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

**Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.
With Creche and Junior Church**

Worship Music Social events Toddler Group Wheelchair friendly
e-mail: info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887

Proposed cuts threaten dads' club

By Diana Cormack

Parents and carers with children under five are again facing the loss of a centre that currently provides a wealth of activities and support. Highgate Children's Centre has been open for just over a year, with many families from East Finchley registered there. People come to see the midwife, get breast-feeding support, and receive baby care and health advice. Along with mums' yoga and parenting classes are activities for youngsters including music, messy play, storytelling sessions, playgroups and a dads' club.

The club was originally set up in East Finchley by Lydik Grynfell, then taken on by Adam Porter, of Leslie Road, after he read about it in *THE ARCHER* of August 2009. The club has gone from strength to strength but Haringey Council now plans to make substantial cuts to its children's centre budget. Consultation meetings, held throughout April, could result in the Highgate Centre being open only for baby weighing and 'signposting' to all other services elsewhere in Haringey. This would be a great loss to many local families. Visit childrenscentreconsultation@haringey.gov.uk for an update.

Newstead saved

Newstead Children's Centre in Fallow's Close, N2, was under a similar threat but,

following consultations, Barnet Council decided it would remain open. Parent Cheryl Connell told *THE ARCHER* that funding has been cut for all commissioned services but current staff levels, including a pre-school teacher, are being maintained for the next financial year. However, some staff will be lost while working for ten hours at other children's centres. With no extra budget they face servicing an increase from 1,200 to 1,900 in clientele. The centre is hoping to maintain its Saturday fathers' group meetings every 4-5 weeks on a voluntary self-run basis.

Cheryl said, "We have been told that further cuts cannot be ruled out...we prepare for another fight!"



Lucy Williams, Janine Waterman Cathy Du Vergier and Mike Quigley outside the Houses of Parliament.

Outstanding body

The governing body of Martin Primary School was one of just six from across Britain to be shortlisted for the Outstanding Governing Body Awards. Governors Janine Waterman, Lucy Williams, Cathy Du Vergier and Mike Quigley represented the group in a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament.

The governing body had been nominated by Cathy Du Vergier for its strategic leadership during the infant and junior school amalgamation in 2007 and for highly organised and effective governing.

The National Governors' Association director Doris Neville-Davis commented on the

governors' active engagement in the local community, close relationship with the headteacher and commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for all children.

Unfortunately, Martin Primary School was not the winner on the day but as a finalist they came away with a certificate and a glass plaque.

Holy Trinity Church Church Lane, East Finchley Church of England

We're a warm and friendly congregation who look forward to welcoming you

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

Children's Sunday Club ♦ Meet over coffee after church

Michael Stanway is happy to answer any enquiries:

Tel: 020 8346 8591