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Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

Avenue House friends spring into action

By Daphne Chamberlain

As reported in last month's *ARCHER*, the future of Avenue House is under threat due to a drying up of cash flow. The historic house and its beautiful grounds, used for many years as a public park, could be lost to the people of Finchley. However, a new and very active group of supporters, Friends of Avenue House, are doing their best to ensure that doesn't happen.

Their first "awareness" event, an Open Day at the end of March, raised over £4,000 from well-wishers in one afternoon. Later fundraising events have included a quiz night and a table-top sale and children's egg hunt. FOAH and AHET are working together towards launching a major fundraising drive. The immediate aim was to raise £25,000 by the end of last month to prevent the loss of the 125-year lease from Barnet.

A member of the Friends told

THE ARCHER, "There is an enormous amount of goodwill, and summer bookings for use of the house are up. We already attend Board meetings, and we will have representatives on the Board."

Keep in touch with developments, or become a Friend, via info@friendsofavenuehouse.org. Donations can be made through www.avenuehouse.org or sent by cheque, made out to Avenue House Estate Trust, to AHET, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.



Feed your need for speed

By John Lawrence

In a secluded garage off Fortis Green, hours of love and care are being lavished on a mean machine that its drivers hope will conquer the racing circuits of Europe this summer.

The machine is one of three Formula Ford racing cars belonging to Alan Crocker, Paul McMorrnan and Giovanni Romagnoli of the Black Magic Motorsport team.

Formula Ford is a hugely popular and much more affordable version of F1 and F3 racing that began in the 1960s as a way for anyone to race using easily available Ford Cortina engines and parts.

Alan, Paul and Giovanni took their car to Holland at Easter and will travel to five

other races in Europe in the coming season.

Backing a local team

They are hoping to attract sponsors to help them run the team. In return for financial assistance, sponsors are promised invitations to experience the thrills and excitement of the Formula Ford championships.

Alan, an experienced driver who won the Formula Ford British Championship in 2000, says: "It's a friendly but very competitive sport. Being

behind the wheel is unbelievably exciting."

Giovanni adds: "Sponsors are welcome whatever they have to contribute, whether hundreds or thousands. They can come with us to the races and enjoy some really fun weekends."

To get a feel for what it's like to sit behind the wheel of a Formula Ford car, via video, go to YouTube and search for Wizerd58. To find out more about the Black Magic team and to contact Giovanni, visit www.blackmagicmotorsport.net



Everyone a winner

By Daphne Chamberlain

Congratulations to our local branch of Age UK on a very successful quiz night, and that's not just because *THE ARCHER* team won!

More than 100 people attended the fund-raising event on 25 March at the Meritage Centre, Hendon. Lisa Dubow, Development Manager for Age UK Barnet, told us that the evening raised £1,250. She said, "This is not going to a specific project, but general fundraising. As with many (if not all) organisations such as ours, we are having to deal with funding cuts and trying to maintain as many of our services as we can."

The £10 entry ticket included a good tuck-in at half-time, with a choice of vegetarian curry made by volunteer carer Taruna Mistry or fish and chips provided by Carole McCarthy, Meritage Centre manager, and volunteer helpers. *THE ARCHER* team had a fun night out, and we enjoyed our Kit Kat Easter egg prizes.

For more information about AgeUK fundraising, or if you would like to help, please contact Lisa Dubow, who is based at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, at lisa.dubow@ageukbarnet.org.uk or on 020 8432 1417.

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