



ARCHER Calendar cash helps Age UK Barnet

By Daphne Chamberlain
Thanks to everyone who sold or bought copies of the ARCHER Calendar 2012 and helped us reach a fundraising total of £1,242 for Age UK Barnet, handed over by our finance manager John Dearing last month.

Age UK now incorporates East Finchley Neighbourhood Services, which runs two lunch clubs, a shopping bus and gardening and transport services for older people. Coordinator Amanda Radonich hopes to use some of the money to benefit the Tuesday lunch club, which meets at the Green Man Centre, and the Muslim ladies' lunch club, which meets at the Ann Owens Centre on alternate Wednesdays.

Sharing in the presentation at the Ann Owens Centre were two East Finchley Neighbourhood Services clients. Mrs Violet Crouchley told us she has been going to the traditional lunch club for 30 years, since its early days in



Church Lane. Patricia Novis also takes part in exercises with music on Mondays and Tuesdays at the Ann Owens

Centre.

Age UK Barnet runs a programme of exercise classes for older people, and also offers social and special interest groups, a befriending service and general advice and assistance throughout the borough. To find out more, call 020 8432 1415, visit www.ageuk.org.uk or search online for East Finchley Neighbourhood Services.

Kenwood House closed for refurbishment

By Diana Cormack

Kenwood House, the English Heritage property on Hampstead Heath, is to close from April this year until next summer to enable vital roof repairs to be carried out. At the same time, its famous cream façade will be stripped down and repaired under a £5 million restoration project.

Visitors come from all over the world to see architect Robert Adams's magnificent building, regarded as one of the great stately homes of England, which houses a priceless art collection. During the closure, some of the paintings will be exhibited on a year-long tour of the US whilst others will be displayed in the UK and in other parts of London.

The grounds will remain open and the summer concerts will be unaffected. English Heritage is endeavouring to keep a refreshment facility open throughout the project. The Brew House may not be open all the time but current

plans are for the Old Kitchen and the Steward's Pantry to be open if the main Brew House restaurant is closed. The kiosk down the hill by the lake will probably reopen for snacks.

Once the Brew House café is closed off, dog owners can use the lower part of the walled garden with bowls of water, chairs and tables there as usual. The toilets will be open, as will those in the house for as long as there is access. At Mansion Cottage there will be an exhibition showing the restoration's progress and the shop at the back where plants and gifts are currently sold will remain open.

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Rachel and Michael raise a Rabbi relay

Two newly weds from East Finchley have set themselves a target of raising £100,000 by cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats.

Rachel Marcus and Michael Leventhal, of Trinity Road, who got married in December, are preparing to undertake the 1,300-mile journey in June. And there's an unusual twist to the escapade: they've persuaded more than 20 Rabbis from around the country to join them and help raise money for food poverty and food-related charities. They're looking for other faith leaders and individuals to join them so they can reach their target. Michael, 38, explains: "The event is called the Rabbi Relay Ride because it coincides with the Year of the Bike in the Jewish community. I thought it'd be fun to ask Rabbis from different communities to join the ride and cycle for one or two days. They can also invite their congregations to join them. It sends a very good message to each Rabbi's community and to the wider community about sustainable transport."

So far, 23 Rabbis have agreed to participate as well as other key figures in the Jewish community. Vivian Winemann, President of the Board of Deputies, has agreed to take part and Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner has agreed to cycle 70 miles on a tandem bike with Ben Rich.

Easy riders

Anyone who is interested in joining the ride or hearing more, or sponsoring any of the participating Rabbis, should look at www.gefiltefest.org or email gefiltefest@gmail.com. Michael, who also organises the annual fundraising London Jewish Food Festival, Gefiltefest, said: "You really don't need to be super-fit to cycle for just one day of the ride. Humans normally walk at 4mph and cycle at 10mph, so on a 60-mile day it would be only six hours of cycling. One Rabbi asked for a downhill stretch and another asked for a rain-free stretch: I'm working on that!"



Saddle up: Michael and Rachel get some cycle training under their belts in the Vosges mountains in the west of France.

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