



Youngsters at Martin Primary School got to handle a genuine Olympic torch.

## Olympic torch lights up school

By John Jackson

The children of Martin Primary had the opportunity of seeing and handling one of the 8,000 torches used in the Olympic torch relay. This particular torch was carried by Lee Hamill in Northern Ireland and was kindly given to Amy and Ben Ablett's mother to bring into our school.

Before the Year 6 show about the ancient Olympics, Amy showed all the infant classes the torch. We then took the torch into the playground for some photos and a parade involving all the junior children, who were lucky enough to get the chance to touch an Olympic torch!

## Motorbike club revs up

By Roger Chapman

A motorbike club is being set up for young people in East Finchley. Six mini bikes will be available one evening a week for members to maintain and ride.

The East Finchley Community Trust, working with the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, has won funding from the John Lyons Trust to set up and run the club.

Five police officers will be trained to take part and we are also looking for five volunteers from the local community to

help run the club. Training will be given. Volunteers will need to have a basic first aid certificate, for which training can also be given.

The young people participating will be given training in basic mechanics and will maintain the bikes themselves.

We hope to get the club up

and running by the autumn. If you are interested in helping to run the club then please ring 07983 360 834 or email: [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)

## Allotment beds for all

Sixteen specially constructed raised beds have been made available at the Gordon Road Allotments site off Dollis Road, N3. Twelve of these form the largest public gardening facility for people with physical disabilities in Barnet. In addition, schoolchildren from Moss Hall Nursery School and the Southover Partnership School will be growing vegetables on four of the beds.

The beds have been constructed at various heights to cater for differing special needs. Each bed has its own water supply and a secure box for tools. The area has been paved to enable wheelchairs to move around easily.

The Finchley Horticultural Society raised £87,600 for this project and acknowledges the generous funding given by its many supporters.

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## Park murderer given life sentence

By Janet Maitland

A Hornsey man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for two counts of murder and five counts of GBH. Ali Koc, 30, attacked seven men in January 2011.

His first victim was Victor Parsons, 68, who was found by a member of the public lying unconscious and bleeding from multiple head injuries near the gates of Alexandra Park on Alexandra Palace Way. He later died in hospital. Koc also attacked a 29-year-old man and a 36-year-old man in Alexandra Park.

Keith Needell, 84, was found with serious head injuries in Queen's Wood on 31 January. He was taken to the Royal Free Hospital where he remained in a critical condition for several weeks before dying from his injuries. Queen's Wood was also where another of the victims, a 63-year-old man, was struck round the head and body with a tree branch. The other attacks were in Downhill's Park and Priory Park.

An incident room opened under Detective Chief Inspector Tim Duffield of the Homicide

and Serious Crime Command on 2 February and Koc was arrested later that day.

### No remorse

"Koc has never shown any remorse for this wanton spate of attacks committed throughout January last year," said DCI Duffield. "There was no motive. This was simply violence for violence's sake, randomly inflicted upon law-abiding people who happened to be walking or jogging through their local parks, in the wrong place at the wrong time. There can be no doubt that Koc is a highly dangerous and predatory individual."

Detectives are not ruling out the possibility that Koc may have attacked other people. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the incident room on 020 8358 0400. If they want to remain anonymous they can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Fingers crossed for Muswell Hill Festival

Organisers of the Muswell Hill Festival are hoping they don't share the fate of the East Finchley Festival, which was cancelled in June due to heavy rainfall in Cherry Tree Wood.

The Muswell Hill Festival takes place at the same venue from 12 noon to 6pm on Sunday 9 September in aid of the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. As always, there will be arts and crafts stalls, donkey rides, the monster veg competition and a dog show, along with fun and games in the kids' zone, and an international selection of food and drink.

In addition, there will be a talent competition and performances by local bands to keep the crowds entertained throughout the afternoon. So

it really is fingers crossed for drier conditions.

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, based in Muswell Hill, runs a government-approved centre and school for children with cerebral palsy. It provides early intervention classes for babies and toddlers, giving advice and training to parents and carers; provides primary education for children aged three to 11; trains professionals working with children with cerebral palsy, and runs holiday schemes for children with cerebral palsy and other motor disorders.

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