



YOUNG ARCHER



Andy Day and Mike James with group of children after their show at Noah's Ark's Festival of Theatre

CBeebies star on stage

CBeebies TV star Andy Day was one of the performers at a day of top children's theatre at artsdepot, North Finchley, in October that raised £6,500 for the Noah's Ark children's hospice service.

The day included Andy and his friend Mike performing Big Box of Bananas and a Tall Stories production of Room on the Broom adapted from the award-winning picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Speaking after the event, Andy Day said: "We had such a brilliant time today, the audience were fantastic and we loved every minute. Noah's Ark is a charity really close to my heart so I am thrilled that everyone could have a laugh at my expense whilst raising money."

Survey detects squatters

By Ann Bronkhorst

If you checked 30 new homes after five years and found squatters in most of them, you'd be surprised. When the Coldfall Wood bat boxes were surveyed in early October, there were signs of bird and insect squatters as well as respectable bat tenants: not a surprise but certainly fascinating.

Cindy Blaney, who installed the boxes in 2007 and who led a popular bat walk for the Friends of the wood in June this year, found 16 were used regularly by bats, mostly Pipistrelles and some Leisler's (a larger, less common bat). Some had left droppings as clues; others were in residence, asleep.

The six different box designs had affected uptake, with the most bat-friendly homes proving to be the larger boxes and those specially constructed to deter birds from nesting inside.

Recycled tennis-ball

The many old bird-nests were a source of great interest at the Woodland Fun Day on 7 October (reported in *THE ARCHER*, November 2012). Blue tits seem to have been the chief squatters, with one or two wrens and robins muscling in.



Pipistrelles in residence.

The nests were often beautifully made and one, woven from bright yellow tennis-ball fluff, drew gasps of admiration. In another nest was a macabre find: a skeleton bird with the remains of an insect larval pupa emerging through its lower jaw.

Old nests of wasps, bees and moths were found as well as plenty of spiders; it's lucky that Cindy isn't an arachnophobe. Lucky for us, too, that she'll check the boxes again in a few years' time, when who knows what creature may fly or crawl out to greet her.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **Newstead Parent & Toddler Group**, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.



Rosie meets some odd creatures in her adventure.

Rosie flies in to youth theatre

Children's theatre company Kat's Whiskers will be performing *Rosie and the Seagull* at the Finchley Youth Theatre, High Road, on Saturday 22 December at 12 noon.

The show is an interactive tale of an eight-year-old girl's adventure of discovery when a mischievous seagull snatches her off to a distant land where naughty children are taught a lesson. There are larger-than-life characters, plenty of puppets and poetry, original music and storytelling. Tickets are priced £5. Telephone: 020 8883 9957.

DO JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH
197 High Road, London N2 8AJ (opp. Creighton Ave.)

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 16 December, 5.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Family Service - 10.00 a.m.

Full details of all our Christmas services are on our website
tel: 020 8346 1700 www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

The Archer Academy Statutory Consultation

Tell us what you think about the plans for our new school

The Archer Academy is a new state secondary school for N2, N3 and NW11, opening in September 2013. It will be a non-denominational, non-selective, mixed school, specialising in Maths and English, with 150 pupils in each year.

As the Archer Academy is a new school, we are required to carry out a consultation, so that our community has the opportunity to comment on our plans. Your views will help us shape our school and ensure that it lives up to our community's expectations.

The consultation will run from 1st November until 31st December, after which we will publish the results on our website. To find out more and have your say, visit www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/survey.

www.thearcheracademy.org.uk

Realising potential. Inspiring creativity.
Engaging with our community.