



Brian Hooper, right, and event organiser George Andrew hand the fundraising cheque to Sarah Goddard, senior fundraiser of BLESMA, with the bandaged pumpkin still on display. Photo by Greg Best.

## Pumpkin thieves thwarted

By Sheila Armstrong

Tireless fundraiser and Barnet Civic Award holder Brian Hooper spent October this year in the Old White Lion pub, not drinking or carousing, but raising £1,760 for The British Limbless Ex-ServiceMens' Association (BLESMA).

He ran a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin competition and, in keeping with the theme, the pub made pumpkin soup. Despite a drama when the pumpkin was stolen from the pub (Brian retrieved and repaired it) all went ahead as planned.

The pumpkin was grown and donated by local allotment holders George Andrew and Bill Nicholson, and the two winners of the competition were Thomas Rolles and Dan Bowen.

Brian was able to hand over a cheque to BLESMA on 6 November and the pumpkin has a future as there are plans for some fundraising pumpkin jam.

This month, Brian will be holding his annual Christmas charity raffle in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital, with over 100 prizes donated by local individuals and businesses. Last year's raffle raised £4,000.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Anniversary angst

This has been a weird year. Everywhere you looked there was someone celebrating a birth or death or drowning. And it's not just the Titanic getting far too up close and personal with an iceberg either. 2012 has been a year full of things to celebrate although I'm not sure if the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the Teasmade is one of them.

Want go back a bit further? Well if you're Russian you've probably played the 1812 Overture to celebrate Napoleon's failure to beat the Russian winter. Never mind that it was written 60 odd years later and didn't become the standard accompaniment to fireworks until Classic FM invented easy listening.

So let's get on with the real deal, yes, music. And what a year we have had, what with celebrating the birth of the charts and the NME in 1952 and the arrival of the first singles from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones in 1962. In the weird world of rock'n'roll, 1962 was one of the truly great years and not just for those guys either. That was the year a bunch of Spurs fans decided that the world needed the Tottenham sound at least as much as it needed Merseybeat and formed the Dave Clark Five.

In America things were happening on both the east and west coasts. In sunny California, the three Wilson brothers with their mates Al Jardine and Mike Love surfed onto the scene. Yes, folks, the Beach Boys combined sun, surf, sand and foreign travel in 'Surfing Safari' and close harmonies haven't been the same since. On the other side of the States, some bloke with a Woody Guthrie fixation got his hands on a record deal and decided that Robert Zimmerman was no name for a self-respecting rebel. Bob Dylan was born and folk music would never be the same again.

Not all anniversaries are doom and gloom. Not when you're marking the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the time The Stones got busted by eating a Mars Bar and also celebrating 80 years of something that helps you work rest and play loud music.

St Mary's Catholic Church 279 High Road N2 8HG

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 16th December

5 pm Carol Service followed by refreshments

Monday 24th December

6 pm Children's Mass for Christmas Eve 10 pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day

10 am Family Mass 12 noon Latin Mass

## Fantastic creations in the Chocolate Factory

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Roald Dahl's chocolate factory held a surprise or two for Charlie. North London's local version is a revelation as well. Tucked away in Clarendon Road, N22, between Alexandra Palace railway station and Wood Green Tube station, it was where Barratt's Liquorice Allsorts, Sherbet Fountains, jelly babies and (later) Caxton chocolates were made. Now it is London's largest studio complex, with space for over 200 artists, sculptors, photographers, printmakers, jewellery makers, leather workers and other creative industries.

At last month's Open Studios Weekend, visitors met artists in their studios, bought presents, and learned more about two organisations with similar aims. Collage Arts manages the Open Studios, but also runs a programme to place 1,000 young people, who would normally struggle to find work, into apprenticeships. The Harington Scheme, a registered charity based in Highgate, helps young adults with learning disabilities to find a job or to go on to further education.

### Productive collaboration

During the weekend, the scheme held a reception for over 100 people at the factory, with TV presenter Joe Swift as their guest speaker. Chocolate Factory artists displayed work to be auctioned, sharing proceeds with the Harington Scheme, and the Scheme sold raffle tickets. The evening was arranged by Harington Scheme Trustee Pauline Treen, well known for her work in raising funds for the North London Hospice, including the annual art exhibition at the East Finchley Arts Festival.

Pauline says: "The collaboration proved a great way for The Harington Scheme to introduce its work to many people, and in turn, the visitors to the Open Studios who came because their favourite charity had been chosen were introduced to the amazing artists at the Chocolate Factory and will no doubt come back next year. We estimate that the event raised over £4,000, which is a wonderful result".

For details on the Harington Trust, see [www.harington.org.uk](http://www.harington.org.uk), or call Joanna Baxter on 020 8341 3657. For Collage Arts, see [www.collage-arts.org](http://www.collage-arts.org), or call 020 8365 7500.

## The show gets better

By Daphne Chamberlain

For the last five years East Finchley Writers have produced an anthology of their work, called Showtime. Each year I have reviewed it for THE ARCHER, and each year it has got better. Showtime 2012 is really excellent.

I have to tease you with humans born with feathers, lovers becoming alligators, the sinister academic with his little bronze toys... but it's not all fantasy. There is the modern Lady of Shalott, a woman "half sick of shadows", imprisoned behind a glass wall. There is vivid travel writing, intriguing extracts from novels in progress, poetry and two pieces that really resonated with me. One (pun intended) was by a fellow bell hater, Don't Ring Dem Bells: the other the touching Swing Boat.

A line in one of the stories says, "The book is made by writer and reader between them every time it is read". So do try to read this. East Finchley Writers meet on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. For details of meetings and how to read Showtime 2012, please call Carola on 020 8883 5808.

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### Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, East Finchley

Church of England

#### Christmas Services December 2012

23 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
	6pm	Service of Carols and Readings
24 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	Nativity Play/bleeding of the Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Christmas Communion

Tel: 020 8346 8591 for more information