



Jubilee street parties made easy

The official celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are four months away and everyone has the chance to bring the party to their street. Barnet Council has promised to cut the paperwork for any residents who want to throw a street party over the jubilee weekend of 2-4 June.

It follows the success of 54 street parties held in Barnet last year to mark the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Residents in Strawberry Vale, Hertford Road and Leicester Road were among those in East Finchley who hung out the bunting.

Now is the time to act if you and your neighbours want to apply for a temporary road closure. Barnet Council says it will make arrangements as easy as possible by minimising the necessary bureaucracy and covering insurance costs. Find further information at www.barnet.gov.uk/highlights/jubilee-street-party.htm

If you need to drum up

numbers in support of a party, you can do so via the council's Pledgebank website at pledgebank.barnet.gov.uk

Diamond Lunch

There's a second reason for holding a street party on the first weekend of June as the Diamond Jubilee coincides with the annual Big Lunch event, which encourages neighbours to get together and get to know each other. Find out more at www.thebiglunch.com.

And if your street party does get off the ground, let us know here at *THE ARCHER* and we'll do our best to picture it in the paper. You can email us at the-archer@lineone.net or contact us by phone or post using the details on page 2.



Regular quiz member Lucy made wonderful cup cakes as raffle prizes. Photo by Brian Hooper.

Fantastic fundraiser from Fortis Green

By Diana Cormack

When Brian Hooper launched his annual Christmas raffle in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (GOSH) at the Old White Lion last year he doubted that, in the present economic climate, it would raise as much as in previous years. However, he was delighted with the final total of £4,100 which more than doubled that of 2010. It also meant that, since December 2008, Brian's Christmas raffles have raised £8,715 for GOSH.

Over the last three years he has organised raffles, quizzes and competitions at the pub next to East Finchley tube station, from which a variety of charities have benefited. He told *THE ARCHER* that in April 2010 £5,500 from the Tuesday night quizzes was shared between Animal Aid, Beacon Lodge, Holy Trinity School and the North London Hospice. In that same year a Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin competition raised £1,300 for Help for Heroes and in 2011 it raised £1,565 for the North London Hospice. (For details of the Tuesday night quiz phone 0208 883 6459).

Early promise

Former teacher Brian, who lives in Fortis Green, is a practising Christian and has also been involved in raising money for All Saints Church. His parents brought him up to care for others

and, at the age of 18 whilst at school in Wembley, he organised a sponsored walk which raised £300. That was an enormous sum in those days and must have been a sign of things to come because Brian's fund raising total since 2008 is an amazing £13,020.

However, Brian is quick to point out that he could not have done this without help. He is particularly grateful to the many local shops and businesses who regularly donate prizes. Their generosity in supplying over 120 prizes enabled him to sell nearly 3,500 tickets before Christmas. Other donations came from well-wishers to whom Brian also wants to express his thanks.

Readers may be pleased to learn that Brian's efforts have not gone unnoticed as last March he was honoured with a Barnet Civic Award.

Online petition for road safety

WALKSAFE N2 campaigners for improved pedestrian safety on Church Lane, High Road and Creighton Avenue have launched a new online petition following the discovery that Barnet Council's policy is to count signatures only on e-petitions available through the council's own website.

Campaigners said they did not know this until recently as there was no notification of this fact on the council's e-petitions page.

However, they are pleased to announce that they have more than 1,000 paper signatures (as of the middle of January) and are gearing up to reach 2,000 before presenting their petition to Barnet Council. Under council procedure, this will guarantee them a place on the agenda at a business overview and scrutiny meeting and an officer review of the policy.

Emily Burnham of WALKSAFE N2 says: "We believe that the scale of response testifies to the concern people share locally about these issues.

"At the same time, we believe that Barnet Council should formally agree to count e-petitions via other web services as this is an unnecessary obstacle to local democracy."

To sign the new petition, visit <http://petitions.barnet.gov.uk/WalksafeN2/>. If you have signed online already, please sign again on the new online petition so that the campaign does not lose your signature.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

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Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>



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A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Learn about breast-feeding

By Mandy Rabin

Although 74% of new mothers in the UK start breastfeeding, only 47% are still doing so at 6-8 weeks, despite most women having planned to breastfeed for longer, according to Department of Health figures.

Why is this? Possibly because there seems to be a nationwide lack of adequate breastfeeding support for new mothers, who are often confused by the conflicting advice they receive from health professionals.

This is why Emma Pickett and I, both lactation consultants who voluntarily run breastfeeding drop-ins at Highgate Family Centre, are now running ante-

natal breastfeeding classes for couples as well.

There is significant evidence that learning about breastfeeding during pregnancy is a key factor in increasing the length of time a woman breastfeeds. This is because after delivery, mothers are often so overwhelmed with recovering from the birth and the demands of having a new baby that many find it difficult to absorb new information.

But why would couples already attending antenatal classes need extra input on breastfeeding? At present, many classes allocate perhaps a couple of hours to breastfeeding. Our sessions go into more depth and detail, helping to prepare couples for a whole range of eventualities in ways that are fun, informative and interesting.

Courses will run at Highgate Family Centre, Gaskell Road, N6 4ED, over three weekday evenings, at a cost of £75 per couple, or as a condensed course on the afternoon of Saturday 3 March for £65. For further information, please phone 07866 937843 (Emma) or 07523 895416 (Mandy), email: emmapickettibcl@gmail.com, mandybreastfeeding@gmail.com.

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