



## Teachers share knowledge in Kosovo

Teachers from Oak Lodge School in East Finchley recently travelled to Prizren in Kosovo to share ways of working with children and young people with autism and those who have been affected by trauma.

Katerina Flynn and Diana Marinova spent four days there at the behest of the One to One Children's Fund. The pair were chosen for the trip as they have a particular understanding and experience of working with children at Oak Lodge who have an autism spectrum condition.

Oak Lodge has been recognised by the National Autistic Society for its educational approaches to autism and the Prizren visit was the first time the school's Outreach Service, coordinated by assistant headteacher Ginny Mason, had extended globally.

Katerina and Diana say the trip was invaluable given that understanding of autism in Kosovo is in need of development.

"Katerina and Diana are an inspiration to all of us," said Ginny. "As teachers working



A helping hand in Kosovo: left to right, Oak Lodge assistant headteacher Ginny Mason, teacher Katerina Flynn and teacher Diana Marinova.

with children with special educational needs, we know how it feels to make even a small difference for the better."

## Two burglaries in three days

By Janet Maitland

**Two houses in Hertford Road were burgled within the space of three days in March. The first burglary happened on 6 March when the residents came home after an evening at the theatre to find their front door bolted from the inside and both of their cars stolen. The burglars had broken in from the back of the house, where they forced open a locked window.**

"They'd opened every drawer and every cupboard in every room, but were very selective in what they took," said one of the residents, who asked not to be named. "They only took things like my partner's gold jewellery and a designer handbag."

Three days later the house opposite was burgled. Even though the resident was at home, the burglars managed to break through the Yale lock on the

front door. They had just enough time to grab a brand new laptop before they were disturbed by the resident and ran off.

Police advise residents to double lock any UPVC or multi point locking door, even when at home. It's also a good idea to keep car keys hidden away, and especially not to leave them on display in a hallway or by a window. Modern cars are difficult to start without the keys, so some burglars break into houses with the aim of stealing the car keys and then the car. Having car windows etched is a relatively cheap and easy means of securing your car.

You should make sure that window locks are strong and that you lock all windows when you go out. Tall hedges can also provide cover for burglars, so cutting them shorter is advised.

## Parking zone legal battle is back on

The legal action to overturn Barnet's Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges is back on track after the Court of Appeal overturned a deputy judge's earlier dismissal of the claim. A court of appeal judge has reinstated a legal challenge brought by Barnet resident David Attfield.

According to Lord Justice Richards's ruling, the case warrants "fuller consideration of the factual and legal considerations" at a trial to take place later in the year. The case has, therefore, taken a big step forward.

The cost of a Barnet resident's permit for a first car rose from £40 to £100 last year and each visitor voucher went up from £1 to £4. The charges were subject to a further 5% increase last month.

Barnet CPZ Action, the campaign group set up to fight the increases, says these rises are up to 13 times higher than in neighbouring boroughs. Their legal case centres on the lawfulness of Barnet Council raising parking charges for a minority of residents with the stated intention of subsidising other transport services across the borough rather than just controlling parking demand.

### Costly visits

David Attfield said: "How can Barnet justify charging £4.16 for a friend to drop by

when Haringey charges as little as 30p? We never wanted to have to pursue legal action against our council. We just wanted a fair outcome but our concerns were treated with contempt. Litigation to us was and is a last resort. We would welcome a meeting with the council to see if we can put this whole sorry saga behind us."

Meanwhile, the group is preparing for a full trial, possibly later in the summer, and is asking all supporters to donate what they can to meet the costs of the case. As the named claimant, David Attfield will be personally liable to pay Barnet's costs should the action fail.

Donations can be made online via at the Barnet CPZ Action website [www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com](http://www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com) or by sending a cheque made payable to Barnet CPZ Action to 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 9QH. If successful, the group hopes that Barnet Council will be ordered to pay the legal costs which should allow much of the donated money to be returned.

## East Finchley Open makes art local

By Adam Justice-Mills

**The East Finchley Open Artists' Open House Weekends are the focal point in EFO's calendar: 65 artists warmly welcome you to a free exhibition on 7-8 and 14-15 July 2012 from 11am to 6pm.**

This is a great opportunity to view a wide variety of unique artwork for sale in EFO members' homes and studios, as well as local shops. Our members include ceramicists, jewellers, painters,

photographers, textile artists and sculptors, glass makers and wood workers.

By visiting EFO venues, you can meet the artists and view the art in a home setting, without gallery fees. Last year over 2,000 people came to our Open House weekends. For 2012 there's the work of ten new members and three new Open Houses, as well as an online map of our venues (see [www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk) for details).

We're busy preparing for the Open and for the East Finchley Festival on 24 June, where we will have information about all the EFO events through the year, including who's exhibiting where on the July weekends. Join us at the festival to help create an Olympic-sized art work to raise funds for the Treehouse Trust charity for children with autism.

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