



# Stanley Field "could be Olympic legacy"

A new campaign group has been formed to keep Stanley Field for sport with a claim that the open space could be an Olympic legacy. The Friends of Stanley Field say the playing field is a much-needed resource for children and people of all ages in an area where sports facilities are in short supply.

Currently, Sport East Finchley is working with developers to secure the best possible mix of housing and leisure use following the rejection by Barnet Council of its bid for the whole field to be a community sport centre.

### Join the parade

The Friends group is inviting families to show their support by meeting at the field at 11.15am on Sunday 24 June dressed in sporting kit to join the parade for the East Finchley Festival that day.

Spokeswoman Kate Brown said: "This year the festival parade has an Olympics theme, so if you like, wear your football shirt or track suit! Stanley Field should be our Olympic legacy. It's a scandal that at the time of the London Olympics, Barnet

Council is considering making some quick cash by selling a field that's been used for sport for over 100 years."

The Friends of Stanley Field have cleared litter and weeds from the football pitch, and have invited Mayoral and GLA candidates and Olympic officials to come and see the field. They can be emailed at [friendsofstanleyfield@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstanleyfield@gmail.com).

Sports EF Chair, Roger Chapman said, "Our last public meeting showed the strength of local opinion in support of protecting Stanley Road Playing Field. I think the establishment of the Friends of Stanley Field reflects that strong feeling. I am sure that their campaign will complement ours to save this playing field for the local community."

# Shoppers support

## Lupus UK

On Good Friday, Sippy Azizollah spent a few hours in Budgens fundraising for Lupus UK. She received the usual kindness and hospitality from the manager and staff at the store along with much support from local shoppers. Sippy, who suffers from lupus herself, would like to thank everyone who helped that day, when her collection box revealed £100 to go to this very worthy cause.



Sippy Azizollah in Budgens. Photo by Diana Cormack.

At present there is no cure for lupus. Visit [www.lupusuk.org](http://www.lupusuk.org) for more information. Look out for more events on 10 May, World Lupus Day.

# Parking changes call time on Watch Factory

By Nick Young

The Watch Factory ceased trading in the High Road at the end of March, a victim of the continuing recession in general and of Barnet Council's new parking regulations in particular.

"We would like to thank all our customers for their support and custom, and hope that Barnet Council will do something quickly before more stores in East Finchley close down," proclaimed a closing-down poster in the shop's window.

"I've been running at a loss since January," said proprietor Bobby Bhojwani, whose shop has been a part of the East Finchley community since opening in the autumn of 2009. "I was getting customers from Enfield, Tottenham and High Barnet. They'd come in and drop off their watches, and then go to visit the other shops." Since the new parking regulations have come into force, however, trade has dried up.

"The dynamic of the high street is changing," said Bobby. "There will just be more betting

shops and hair salons, which will compete against each other, and we'll move away from the balanced high street that draws in people from miles around. [The council] has made sweeping decisions without realising the consequences."

Bobby, who offered vintage watch repair services at competitive rates as well as selling watches, fitting new straps and changing batteries, was in the process of selling all of his stock and specialist equipment when he spoke to *THE ARCHER*. "I've been in touch with an eBay expert who'll take whatever's left," he said. He intends to move to Australia to stay with relatives for the immediate future.



The Watch Factory has gone out of business. Photo by Nick Young.

# Olympic Flame to pass close by

The Olympic Flame will be passing through Barnet on Wednesday 25 July, two days before the opening of the Games. Regents Park Road, Ballards Lane, and Tally Ho will all see the torch relay pass by between 12-3pm. See the full route and timings at [www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap](http://www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap)

# Best paws forward

On Sunday 13 May, 100 dogs will take part in a sponsored 4km walk around Highgate Wood to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The new event called Best Paw Forward follows the lead of a similar walk in Barnes which has raised an amazing £50,000 for the charity.

The route covers two laps of this popular dog-walking destination. Dogs will set out in small groups from 10am and there will be a raffle and prizes for the pets raising the most sponsorship. Dogs taking part will also be able to buy a Best Paw Forward t-shirt at the event. Registration is £8 per dog. Participants will be emailed an information pack and details of how to set up their dog's own online sponsorship page.

For more information visit <http://supportus.cancerresearchuk.org/BPFHighgate>, contact Sylvia Mutevelian

on 0771 1828250 or e-mail [woodview188@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:woodview188@yahoo.co.uk).

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