



YOUNG ARCHER

Show your library some love

Twelve-year-old Fiona Mitchell, of Summerlee Avenue, explains why she's one teenager who treasures her local library.

I've always enjoyed libraries, ever since I was very small I loved being taken down to the library, to explore the masses of books, never knowing what I would find. And as I've entered my teen years my appreciation of my local library has remained.

That is why I'm often seen searching through the books of East Finchley library, hoping to find a book that will remind me why I love reading so much. Based on the 1,000 residents' signatures on the 'Save our Libraries' petition last year, it seems many people feel the same way. But I'm still not convinced that many teens or young people fully appreciate their library.

For many people, the way they use their libraries has changed considerably from when they were six to twelve. Teenagers do not have to rely on their parents to take them to the library; they choose different books and they can make more use of the library's other facilities such as book groups, writing groups, homework clubs and author readings.

Recently, I have joined the teen book group Me, Myself and I. We meet every month to discuss our chosen book, pick new titles and share our love for reading. I have found this book club has widened my knowledge and love for new genres of literature, that until recently I had not explored.

For example, this month, due to Charles Dickens' 200th birth-

day, we are reading a graphic novel of Great Expectations. This has done two things for me. One, as normally graphic novels are not my first choice, it has shown me any reading is reading and can be just as enjoyable as a traditional novel. Secondly, the old-fashioned language has required much more concentration and understanding of the story line. I believe this is a good thing for any reader to experience as even with seemingly straightforward storylines, sometimes with a bit of focus, you can uncover a hidden message.

That is why I have nothing but praise and appreciation for my local library. But don't just take my word for it. Down at East Finchley library they're always looking for new members. And remember, whether it's a book, comic, graphic novel, instruction sheet, cheat book or even a magazine; any reading is reading.

THE ARCHER needs volunteer distributors for The Grange (3 rounds)

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

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Children in Need grant for Noah's Ark



Dan Jones and some siblings enjoying a recent outing to Shaketastic Bus. Photo courtesy of Noah's Ark

Staff and volunteers at Noah's Ark have been celebrating the news that Children In Need has granted them funding for the second time in three years. The grant, awarded over a three-year period, will be used to expand the charity's Sibling Support Programme and will benefit brothers and sisters of life-limited and life-threatened children living within the boroughs of Enfield, Barnet, Islington, Camden and Haringey.

The programme has organised a wide range of activities for the siblings, from Bollywood dancing, DJ and drama workshops to mask and felt card making and a teddy bear's picnic. Outings included a driving day, trips to LaserQuest and the cinema, ice-skating and trips to the BBC for recording and animation workshops. None of these activities would be possible without the support of specially trained Family Support Volunteers, Specialist Carers and the wider Noah's Ark team.

The benefits of the programme are best summed up in the following quote from a 15 yr old sibling, "The Sibling Support Programme is a great help for me because it has helped me regain and build my confidence ever since my brother was ill. They have brought me many good memories in the past and I have made many good friendships over the past years and thank you for putting my life back on track."

For further information visit www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk or contact Dan Jones on 020 8449 8877 or djones@noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Hundreds of toys to enjoy

By Liz Luxmore

Would your child enjoy having four different new toys every three weeks? And would you enjoy choosing them from our collection of around 600 toys for under-sixes?

If so, come into Muswell Hill Toy Library, on the first floor of the library in Queens Avenue, Muswell Hill. We are just off the roundabout, and are open three days a week: Mondays from 2pm to 3.30pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am until noon.

Although based in Haringey we accept, and are happy to help, parents and carers from neighbouring boroughs. As we are a charity we charge £12 a year, or £8 for six months, or a 'taster' fee of £5 for just three months. If you are on benefits (though not the Child Benefit that everyone gets) your membership will be entirely free.

Stock to choose from includes toys for babies and toddlers, plus construction sets, games, dressing up clothes, Thomas the Tank Engine toys, play trays and jigsaws, and a collection of musical CDs and instruments for under-sixes. We also have a small collection of DVDs, and larger toys including a baby tricycle, tent, and tunnels for the garden. We run singalongs, story times and music sessions each week, and special events in summer holidays, so the whole library is a fun place to visit. Ring me, Liz, on 020 8444 0244 for more information. We will welcome you to have a look at any time when we are open.

Sing your heart out

Fun-loving vocal group Rock Chorus was launched in September 2009 by singer/songwriter Lauren Field. Since then they have gone from strength to strength with over 400 members in eight choirs.

Rock Chorus perform classic and contemporary rock, pop, soul and gospel from the 1960s to the present day, and have a rocking great time singing them. Anyone can come along for a free taster session at any time. Lauren said: "We don't hold auditions and previous experience isn't required. We want people to come because they love singing and want to make friends."

The local choir meets at Trinity Church Centre, 15 Nether Street, North Finchley, N12 7NN on Thursday evenings from 8pm to 9.30pm. All ages are welcome. Membership costs £90 for a ten-week term. For more information call 01582 668211 or email info@rock-chorus.com. Also visit www.rock-chorus.com and www.facebook.com/rockchorus



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