



## YOUNG ARCHER



A cheerful crowd celebrate protected status for Muswell Hill Playing Field at the Woodland Fun Day on 7 October. London Borough of Haringey.

## Outdoor celebration for friends of wood and field

By Ann Bronkhorst

Advertised as a Woodland Fun Day, the event on Sunday 7 October was an afternoon's worth of free outdoor entertainment and activities in glorious sunshine. About 300 people, mostly from Muswell Hill and East Finchley, gathered on the Muswell Hill Playing Field to celebrate its new Queen Elizabeth protected status and to see the latest improvements in Coldfall Wood.

Many people were drawn to the field by the sound of the jazz quartet and the enticing smell of hot sausage rolls. Some had never explored the field or the wood before. A guided walk was laid on to explain the various projects recently completed in the wood, where a demonstration of the ancient craft of charcoal-burning gave a fascinating glimpse into Coldfall Wood's history. Homemade charcoal was available and hurdle-making (hand-cut hazel-wood fencing, another old woodland craft) was also demonstrated.

### Teddy-bears' picnic

Children designed imaginary birds, did delicate leaf-rubbings and made 'wild-child' masks decorated with real autumn leaves, watched by a row of well-dressed Teddy-bears which were judged for their outfits by Haringey Councillor Nilgun Canver. A scavenger hunt sent children racing around the field and wood to collect natural things like moss and berries, while children and adults alike marvelled at the

birds' nests and other 'finds' discovered in the recently-inspected bat boxes.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood, supported by Haringey and by Community Spaces who also funded the access improvements in the wood, organised the Fun Day as a way of bringing together local people who value these precious green spaces and whose support helped to win protected status for the field. See more on the website at [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk).



Proud of Pride the Lion. Photo by Ian Cormack.

## A roaring success

When she was at the Olympic Park in July, *THE ARCHER's* Diana Cormack visited the BMW pavilion.

Inside was a recording booth where people were being encouraged to roar on Team GB as loudly and enthusiastically as they could. A few weeks later she was contacted by BMW with the news that her roaring display had won her a mascot prize. It arrived at the beginning of October. Not attached to a BMW Mini as she had hoped, but Diana is delighted with her Pride the Lion soft toy.

## Aaron's an all-round athlete

We reported in last month's issue that Aaron Hammond from Bishop Douglass School had been named Young Sports Performer of the Year in Barnet. Here he is being presented with his award by GB Olympic fencer James Davis at the Barnet Partnership for School Sports Awards evening.

As captain of the U15 basketball team, Aaron led his team to victory in the Barnet Basketball League and Barnet Basketball Cup with an undefeated track record. He demonstrated his prowess by being the top points scorer, averaging 26 points a game.

His relentless passion to be the best that he can be also saw him gain a silver medal as a new competitor in the Barnet Trampoline Competition. Additionally, he has achieved success in football, athletics, badminton and table tennis.

His teachers at Bishop Dou-



Sports champ Aaron Hammond, of Bishop Douglass School, receives his award from GB Olympic fencer James Davis.

glass say Aaron encompasses the Olympic and Paralympics values, inspiring others as an active sports leader.



## Soaring sunflowers

Forty children lovingly tended sunflowers for a competition run by the Finchley Horticultural Society back in the summer. Eight reached the final and the tallest sunflower was grown by eight-year-old Clarice Hitner. Her sunflower reached the grand height of 228cm. Clarice was presented with a prize by Ann Brown, chair of the society, during the Gordon Road Autumn Fair in September.

### PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at [eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com](mailto:eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com)
- ❖ **Newstead Parent & Toddler Group**, Thurs 9-12-30, Green Man Ctr. Sajni 8359 3460.
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.

A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

[www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)

**Sunday service at 10.30 a.m.**  
**With Crèche and Young Church**

Worship Music Social events Wheelchair friendly  
e-mail: [info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk) Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887

## Velvety voices

Review by Ken Carter

**Barnet Voices** is essentially a madrigal group comprising three men and seven women. They sang unaccompanied in mellifluous voice in one of East Finchley Methodist Church's regular free concerts on 14 October.

The group sang four groups of melody: European airs of a spiritual nature from the likes of Monteverdi and Bruckner; English secular airs from the Elizabethan era; soft-centred romantic melodies; and finally American songs from the last century, robust and syncopated. Throughout, the singing was pleasing and disciplined.