



Stand up for our young people

The popular Monday Club has had a difficult time after losing its home when new trustees kicked community groups out of the Old Barn in Tarling Road. Here, the youth club's leader Maureen Clemetson issues a heartfelt plea to the people of East Finchley.

I have lived in East Finchley for 24 years. Seven years ago I founded the Monday Youth Club at the Methodist Church, on the High Road. Six children registered for an hour and a half on a Monday night and that soon grew to 80. After 18 months we moved to St Mary's RC Church, with more space for doing activities such as music mixing, healthy eating, art and craft and football, (borrowing Martin School's field).

The club grew to over 300 on register. We were getting up to 50 children in the hall and another 40 on the field doing football. They were well catered for with a band of qualified volunteers helping, not forgetting my main right-hand lady Maureen Antoinette. The club became a hub for youngsters from the Grange, Strawberry Vale and beyond, a meeting point they could rely on, no matter what.

Old Barn found and lost

Needing more space, we moved to the Old Barn in April 2010 but had to move out after a few months for health and safety reasons. Disappointingly, we have been unable to be re-instated there. Since March 2011, Martin School has helped enormously by letting us use their infant hall and playing

field. For this we are eternally grateful but need more space for the teenagers to do the various activities we offer.

Attendance numbers have dropped dramatically. The children are unsure of where they stand and are losing the stability they need in their teenage years. Sometimes I just want to sit back and forget about it all, but when I get a thank you from a parent on the street and actually see a young person's life being transformed, it makes me feel what I am doing is worthwhile.

A place of their own

I am asking YOU, THE PEOPLE OF EAST FINCHLEY, the mums and dads and carers, to make a stand and come together for the good of our community and for the young people of East Finchley. They need somewhere to go, somewhere they can call their own, not roaming the streets and getting into all kinds of trouble, feeling worthless and that no-one can be bothered with them.

So I am calling on you today to come together as one people, come alongside with me to find somewhere permanent for our young people. I know I can count on you. If you would like to contact me my number is 07931 586740.

Green drinks

Are you interested in environmental issues and do you fancy learning more from like-minded individuals over a drink or two? Barnet Green Drinks is a monthly social occasion for people interested or involved in green activities and a chance to find out about new projects.

Organiser Luke Berman said there was no set agenda but things likely to be discussed were upcoming green events, local food growing, and local environmental issues like the Pinkham Way waste plant plan.

Luke said: "There are many good small projects happening in Barnet to increase our sustainability, decrease our impact upon the planet and strengthen our community. "However, what I found lacking was a place for people to get together and talk to others doing similar things to increase awareness and forge friendships. My intention is to make Barnet Green Drinks the monthly must-attend green social occasion across the borough."

Barnet Green Drinks happens on the last Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm till late at the Bald Faced Stag on the High Road. Find out more from the website at www.greendrinks.org/

london/barnet or email barnet-greendrinks@hotmail.co.uk

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Sally at the café with her late beloved pet Charlie.

Cherry Tree Wood café still open

By Diana Cormack

In last month's ARCHER Sally-Anne Wigfield explained why she had taken the decision to close the café in Cherry Tree Wood. Briefly, failure to reach satisfactory terms of agreement with Barnet for the renewal of the lease on the kiosk coupled with the Council's intention to grant a 25-year lease for the proposed redevelopment of the pavilion forced the issue.

However, after comments from customers prompted her to seek legal advice, Sally learned of a way to keep the café open which she is now doing under a Tenancy of Will Agreement, whereby either party can give one week's notice. How long this will go on for could depend on the verdict reached by the cabinet resources committee which is due to meet on 27 September.

There will be a limited service at the kiosk but it will be an exciting one, for Sally's Japanese friend Yuriko will be there making sushi rolls. Sally is in discussion with a catering colleague from Eco-Cuisine

who may manage the kiosk over the winter when Yuriko has returned home.

The kiosk was always a temporary measure dependent on the outcome of the letting of the pavilion for which Barnet Council accepted the highest bid, as is their legal obligation. However, should the proposed plan fall through, Sally would

wish the kiosk to be converted to a community café and a training facility for autistic pupils from the nearby Treehouse Centre.

East Finchley's ward councillors have raised serious concerns about the way the lease decision on the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion has been handled. See the letter from Colin Rogers on page 11.

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