



Susan Bennett, left, and Caroline Broome, of Church Lane, prepare for Open Garden day. Photo by Earl Hyde.

Gardens ready to open for new season

By Susan Bennett

Last autumn as my husband Earl Hyde dragged huge sheets of wood into our sodden garden, I assumed he was about to construct an ark. Throughout the horrendously wet summer of 2012, stalwart souls bravely explored private gardens open for charity.

Despite numbers being down, the National Garden Scheme distributed £2,600,000 to nursing, caring and garden charities. So we embark on a new season with high hopes and new initiatives.

We are delighted that two members' gardens will open for the first time in East Finchley, adding to the wonderful variety on offer.

The NGS Yellow Book, with details of nearly 4,000 gardens to visit, is now available as a free app for iPads and smartphones. Meanwhile, I am preparing for our own open day, when visitors will

discover just what Earl has constructed with all those huge bits of wood.

Here are the first open days this year. Details of others to come in future issues:

Artists Susan and Earl open their theatrical garden at 5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, on Sunday 28 April from 2-6.30pm. Admission is £3.50, children free. Plant sale and homemade teas.

On Sunday 26 May, the garden gate will be open for the first time at 58 Summerlee Avenue, N2 from 2-7pm. Admission £3, children free, again with teas and plants.

Apple Day ripens again

By Harriet Copperman

On a sunny Saturday last October a group of local residents handed out tasters of freshly-pressed apple juice from local fruit, which was much appreciated judging by the crowds of passersby who stopped to sample and sign up to help on a future occasion.

There are several 'unknowns' for 2013, including the weather and the amount of help and support offered by the community. Last year the bad weather meant a poor crop of soft fruit (plums, blackcurrants etc) and top fruit (apple, pears etc), so there was relatively little to harvest and distribute.

If there are signs of a better harvest this year, then a greater variety of fruits may be on offer for people to taste and enjoy, possibly on several occasions rather than just one.

However, whatever the size of the harvest, without

help from others the event will be limited in size and scope. Volunteers will be needed to identify local fruit trees in the area, harvest the fruit in other people's gardens (with permission, of course), and to help at the event itself.

Anyone in a position to offer some practical help and support would be most welcome to join us at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 23 April, at the Old White Lion pub near the station. If you cannot come to the meeting you could drop a line to efabundance@btinternet.com or c/o 32 Park Hall Road, London N2 9PU.

Martin School: our school, our story

By Roger Chapman, Martin School community governor
Martin Primary School, which is 100 years old this year, opens its doors to the community on Saturday 27 April as the culmination of its School History Week.

Between 11am and 2pm you are invited to visit the school, to tour the buildings, see an exhibition prepared by the children about the history of the school, look at the results of archaeological work undertaken on the school field, explore the second world war air raid shelters and let us know your memories and stories about the school and what it means to East Finchley.

Memories of schooldays

We particularly welcome former pupils, teachers and their families to re-visit the school and share memories to help record the history of the school. You'll have a chance to explore your old classrooms and catch up with old friends.

Images, stories and memorabilia are being collected for our centenary project so we'd like people to bring in their photographs of the school, its pupils and activities. You may also be able to help us put names to faces in the archive of photos we have and tell us what you remember. We'll have scanners to copy any photos or school books you are willing to share, and will also be recording short interviews for our archive and exhibition.

Hands-on help

We also want more volunteers to join our growing group to help us with our work in researching, transcribing, undertaking oral histories, website development, exhibition work and many more things. Come along on the day and find out more.

This is an exciting time for the school as our expansion plans take place. It will be one of the last opportunities to see the school laid out much as it was in 1913 before changes take place. If you can't make it on the day send your thoughts, photos or memories to us at martinprimary100@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Martin.School.Centenary

Charity jazz night was a blast

Monday 11 March was full of joy as the Hall School Cricket Pavilion in East End Road, N3 staged a marvellous evening of jazz. This was organised by John Bayne, one of the leading exponents of the bass saxophone in the country.

A seven-piece band was booked to play and over a dozen other professional musicians brought along their varied instruments to just 'sit in'.

One of the audience brought along a keyboard which he auctioned for a very welcome £90 and almost £700 was raised during the evening, all of which will go to The Royal Free Cancer Care Units, where Pam

Kent (former Finchley Jazz Club secretary and Archer team member) is currently receiving such excellent treatment.

During the last session there were 17 musicians on the stage, all giving their very best to entertain. Maybe another event will be organised in the summer – it will be advertised in The Archer so watch this space.



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