



YOUNG ARCHER

Delightful diversity at Newstead

By Helen Drake

On a gloriously sunny afternoon on 5 July, Newstead Children's Centre in Fallows Close put normal service to one side for the afternoon to throw an international party with music from hip hop to Bangla.



Happy smiles at Newstead Children Centre's international party day.

Cricket champions lift the cup

Five schools and six teams attended the annual Year Nine competition hosted by Christ's College in East Finchley. In a round-robin tournament some entertaining cricket was played by all teams.

Christ's College were the ultimate champions, defending the title they won last year, followed by Fortismere A, Finchley Catholic High, Compton, Fortismere B and Whitefields. Congratulations to the winners and to all the players for a sporting competition.



The CCF Cricket champions.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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With a huge variety of home cooked food on offer including traditional English cucumber sandwiches and cream teas, Polish cake, a wonderful selection of Greek and Indian dishes, and with a bit of pizza and fruit thrown in for good measure, no one went hungry.

Centre manager Sajni Sharma said: "The idea for the party came from our parents themselves who wanted to learn about each other's cultures and the whole event was planned by them. Everyone, including staff and children, came in their traditional cultural clothes and seeing all the outfits and colours together really brought home to me how diverse our community is and how much we should celebrate this."

Activities for children included storytelling, biscuit decorating and henna painting while their parents got some exercise in the Zumba workshop or learnt some African dance.

Two consultations took place during the afternoon, one from Newstead itself asking parents to rate their service and one from the Big Local project asking for ideas on how to improve the area. Sajni said: "I'd like to thank the Big Local for their support and look forward to continuing the relationship over the course of the project."



The Oak Lodge children enjoy their sailing holiday.

Oak Lodge students on the beautiful briny

By Teresa Ellis

In July, 22 students from Oak Lodge Special School, off East End Road, tasted the freedom of the open sea on an adventure holiday to the Isle of Wight.

They stayed in Cowes at the UK Sailing Academy, a charity set up by local businessman Noel Lister, which aims to advance the education and physical, mental and spiritual development of disadvantaged children from anywhere in the UK. The location was perfect for the youngest students, as many of them had never been able to go on holiday away from their families before.

The staff and instructors were fantastic and all of the students were so brave and enthusiastic about completing the different activities, which included paddle boarding, windsurfing and kayaking, developing independence skills and building their confidence by trying new things and working together.

The children said: "It was awesome, can we come back next year?" Everyone said they loved the water sports, the disco and the delicious cooked breakfasts!

This trip would not have been possible without a donation from a small East Finchley charity. The staff team would like to thank everyone for their kind support in enabling what could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. At the same time, the trip provided families with much needed respite, and they have also passed on their thanks.

If you would like to sponsor a student for a trip out or a residential journey, please contact the school on 020 8444 6711, or online through www.hearts-of-oak.org

Headteacher takes a soaking

Holy Trinity C.E. Primary School enjoyed a super summer fair on Saturday 29 June. Organised by the enthusiastic Holy Trinity School Association, the fair successfully raised over £3,000 for the school.

It was no surprise that throwing soaking wet sponges at their sporting head teacher Tim Bowden was particularly popular.

Leya and Cerys from Year 4 reporting on the event said: "It was a nice summer's day, perfect for a fair. There were many stalls to choose from like: coconut shy, decorating biscuits, pocket money toys, tombola, book stall, soak the teacher, a very yummy cake stall, a bouncy castle for the little ones and lots, lots more. We even had our very own freshly made popcorn, with three different flavours: strawberry, blueberry and banana.

"At the end of the fair, there were a few different types of raffles like, name the teddy, where you could win the teddy (actually a Kangaroo), you could also guess the amount



Headteacher Tim Bowden gets ready for a soaking at Holy Trinity's summer fair.

of sweets in the jar, you could win a big crystal and then there was the main raffle, with lots of good prizes."

Many thanks to Haven Estate Agents who sponsored the house boards, Apollo construction who donated 1st prize

on the raffle, Domino's Pizza who provided pizzas for the children's lunch boxes and to Green Watch from Finchley fire station who allowed the children the rare treat of exploring the fire engine and sounding the siren!