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Photograph by Nigel Sutton

## Fair in the Square

Spectacular stilt walkers, a road train, old-fashioned merry-go-rounds and a sheep show were all part of the Fair in the Square in Highgate on Saturday 15 June, which was a huge success despite some dreadful downpours at times. Next year's fair will be on Saturday 14 June and the team behind it are keen to hear from anyone interested in helping with organisation. Email: [thefairinthesquare@gmail.com](mailto:thefairinthesquare@gmail.com)

## Panorama from the pasture

Visitors to Long Lane Pasture now have the chance to enjoy the panoramic view across Finchley with the help of a new vista sign to tell them exactly what they're looking at.

The metal information sign, designed by Chris Brown, has been installed on the highest point of the pasture, known as Octavia Hill, after the English social reformer of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who is thought to have played in the area as a child and who became a co-founder of the National Trust. The sign was one of the main

attractions of the pasture's open weekend at the start of June, just one of a busy programme of events there through the spring and summer.

Pupils from Manorside School, Squires Lane, visited recently and observed a great pond snail as well as newts, tadpoles and bees.

The children discussed pollution from the pasture's oil patch, dumped by builders many years ago and a constant problem as it keeps coming to the surface and destroying nearby vegetation.

Long Lane Pasture is delighted to welcome school visits by arrangement at: [enquiries@longlanepasture.org](mailto:enquiries@longlanepasture.org).



Rose and Flora Bardell, of Lincoln Road, admiring the new vista sign at Long Lane Pasture.

## Premiere of dramatic new orchestral work

By Sam Warner

On 6 July in Hampstead Garden Suburb's Free Church, local amateur orchestra the North London Sinfonia (formerly the Tudor Orchestra) will premiere a brand new and exclusive piece by young

up-and-coming composer Soosan Lolavar, who has worked with the orchestra for a year as part of the AdoptAComposer scheme.

Her composition, entitled *Things Come Together*, is inspired by the idea of collabo-

ration and community. "I was able to tailor parts to the specific standard of each player as I got to know them," says Lolavar. "They came from all over the world, were aged from their 20s to their 70s and had a wide variety of reasons for joining."

However, there is much more to the piece than meets the ear, being in part inspired by the title of the late Nigerian author Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. Lolavar had always loved the evocative and hopeless nature of the title.

The piece itself incorporates the use of tape, alongside 40 triangles, a feat inspired by her electronic music roots in which she discovered the classical side of composition. Lolavar used the same skills to record an ice-breaking session between all members of the orchestra who were less known to each other.

The performance of *Things Come Together* will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3 later this year.

Lolavar says: "Non-professional music-making really should be given the chance to shine and be celebrated much more than it is at the moment." She hopes that this airing will help other amateur orchestras and encourage other non-professionals to join a thriving community.

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