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## Do not open until 2048... A snapshot of today

East Finchley's newest school, Eden Primary, celebrated the completion of its new building on 9 May with a traditional Jewish dedication ceremony, known as a Chanukat Habayit, or Dedication of the Home.

The children buried a time capsule full of mementos from their first year, which will be opened in 2048. They also created a piece of community artwork, danced, held a ceremony, and ate large quantities of cake. Team GB Olympian Yamile Aldama, current women's world triple jump champion, was the guest of honour. Peter Kessler, co-founder of the school in Creighton Avenue, said: "When we become owners of a home, we take on responsibilities. We want to make our home a place of understanding, a place of welcome to strangers and guests, a place of thinking and respect. We want it to be a place of peace; and we want it to be a place of joy. "Achieving all those aims takes time and effort, and the Chanukat Habayit ceremony is a way for us all to come together as a community and commit ourselves to those goals. Our builders have given us the perfect environment. Now it is up to us to make it work."



Going underground: Staff, parents and pupils at Eden Primary watch the burial of the time capsule.

### Classes for adults

Eden's commitment to its local community continues in June, when the school will host four evenings of adult education, entitled 'Tree of Knowledge'. The sessions will take place every Wednesday evening in June, and are open to anyone who wants to attend. Topics include: Art for Adults, German Cinema, Cooking an Israeli Feast, Lost Railways of North London, Secrets of a Professional Photographer, and Introductory Hebrew. To book, visit the school's website [www.edenprimary.org.uk](http://www.edenprimary.org.uk).

## Centenary Open Day at Martin School

By Erini Rodis

At 100 years old Martin School has officially matured and in April it invited ex-pupils to come and explore their old haunt and rekindle a few memories.

There were a number of displays: old photos of class groups; interviews with former pupils; an exhibition of pin hole camera photos by Year 4 and artefacts discovered by the archaeological team who'd been digging up the field during the previous History Week.

As former pupils we signed

in on arrival, had tea and cake and scoured the main hall (still with its parquet flooring but missing the stage) for people we might recognise. Goose bumps set in as we started to spot folk from our youth, wanting to catch up but not sure where to start after all these years...

While taking a tour of the

school like a bunch of giggling school kids we reminded each other of strict teachers, bullies we'd endured and the tactics of sweet revenge; games of kiss chase, skipping rope songs and playground injuries; crushes we had on people who unfortunately hadn't turned up. And that was just the 1970s!

Others didn't have it so easy, especially in the early 1940s, when pupils were routinely marched to the air raid shelters, or during the polio epidemic which closed the school and had several families quarantined.

### An adaptable school

Some things, like the rope ladder in the 'Infants' hall, and the doors in the corridors, have never changed. The school has held on to its original charm but has continued to thrive and adapt to modern needs. The recent local population explosion is necessitating an expansion which will see enormous changes to the school grounds over the coming years, as Martin expands to a permanent three-form entry school, growing by nearly half its size again!

Stories were gathered by Martin School Centenary team; thanks to Heritage Lottery funding these will be shaped into teaching aids for the school and a website which will be accessible by the wider community.

Further plans are in store for 7 October to celebrate the school's official birthday, so note that on your calendar too!

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