



## Harvey steps up for London Marathon

Until recently, Harvey Vaknin had no idea that he would be running the London Marathon this year. Then his younger sister Rachel suggested he ran for Ambitious for Autism, the young people's charity where she did voluntary work and whose specialist TreeHouse school is based nearby in Woodside Avenue, N10.

"I only signed up in January which gave me about 13 weeks to train," said Harvey, who's setting himself a target time of three and a half hours. "I've done some half marathons in the past but this is a hell of a step up."

"I'm really looking forward to the whole event, particularly the free sports massage at the end. I'm hoping I don't hit the Wall but I know that the support all the runners get from the crowd is a real driving force and keeps everyone going."

The 24-year-old, of Baronsmere Road, has raised £1,000 so far and is hoping to raise more than £2,000. To help him reach his target, you can donate online at his fundraising page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HarveyVaknin>



## Running for Whizz-Kidz



By Philip Halton

**I'm 25 years old and have always been a resident of East Finchley. This April, having been inspired by reading the stories of past runners in THE ARCHER over the years, I will finally fulfill a lifetime's ambition by running the London Marathon for the first time.**

I will be running for Whizz-Kidz, a charity that helps to improve the lives of young disabled children by providing them with wheelchairs to increase their mobility and therefore to make them more independent as they make the transition into adulthood.

My goal is to raise £1,600 for this worthwhile cause, and hopefully with your support, to exceed it. £1,500 could provide a lightweight manual wheelchair to give a child the independence they need to keep up with their friends, but £4,000 could provide a powered wheelchair to give a child the independence they need to have fun.

Some of you may have seen me running in the High Road and despite all the hard training, cold nights and zillion blisters, I can't wait to run next month for such a fantastic cause.

Please donate online at my justgiving web page for Whizz-Kidz: [www.justgiving.com/Philip-Halton](http://www.justgiving.com/Philip-Halton). I would really appreciate any contribution, however big or small. Thank you.

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## East Finchley has talent

In the build-up to this year's summer community festival, the organisers are holding a 'Battle of the Bands' on 16 March at the East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks from 2-8pm.

They are looking for exceptional young local acts to come and perform their tunes with the chance of winning a coveted spot on the main stage of the summer festival. If you know of an act that might be interested please contact: [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com).

## First signs of spring on the pasture

By Linda Dolata

**Long Lane Pasture is a remnant of ancient hay meadow, now managed by volunteers as a nature reserve. Located opposite the Fire Station, it's open at weekends from 10am to 5pm.**

It has been an exceedingly wet winter, and standing water has hampered our efforts to rake up all the hay, necessary to prevent overfertilisation by decomposition of the native plants. Nevertheless, the signs of spring and the inception of a new season are all there.

### White and gold

The snowdrop bank was already in bloom by mid-January, and these beautiful bulbs are accompanied by winter aconites, and followed by shy little native daffodils planted last year. Goat willows display their fur-like 'pussy-willow' catkins whilst the hazels shake their own 'lamb's tail' male catkins with every tiny breeze, shedding copious yellow pollen. We usually have a resultant autumn crop of cobnuts, which are popular with small mammals such as voles and mice.



Hazel.

Illustrations by Terry Mardell

ments and gardens. Some of them are visitors, others make their homes here, particularly in the brambles and other hedge-row shrubs.

Frequently seen are sparrows, robins, blackbirds white-throats, thrushes, starlings, ducks, moorhens, crows, wrens, bluetits, great tits, long tailed tits, a heron, a sparrow hawk and a kestrel.

### Frogs go a-woeing

One rather loud member of the dawn chorus has a distinctive and continuous croak. On investigation, this noise comes from the many male frogs which serenade their loves before pairing up with them to fertilise literally gallons of frogspawn. It is worth a visit just to see this sea of dotted jelly.

There is so much to tell you about, but better still, choose a nice day and come and see for yourselves. Our website [www-longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org) has full details, including dates for our special activity days. And we are in need of more volunteers. Just two hours any Saturday from 10am, when you can do as little or as much as you wish... weeding, pruning, clearing, planting, digging, recording or observing.



Red Admiral (top) and Peacock butterflies

The air at this time of the year is full of birdsong, as the males claim their territory and send tuneful signals to their potential mates. We have a good range of birds on the pasture, helped by its proximity to allot-

## All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.  
(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

### Holy Week Services:

24 March - Palm Sunday 10.00 a.m.  
Solemn Mass with Blessing of Palms

28 March - Maundy Thursday 8.00 p.m.  
Mass of the Lord's Supper

29 March - Good Friday 3.00 p.m.  
Sung Celebration of the Lord's Passion

30 March - Holy Saturday 8.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil

31 March - Easter Day 10.00 a.m.  
Parish Mass of Easter Day

For more details, contact the Vicar,  
Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315  
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

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