



Happy days for Maureen and the Monday Club

By Daphne Chamberlain

Maureen Clemetson, co-founder of East Finchley's Monday Club for young people, was one of this year's Barnet Civic Award winners. Introducing the award ceremony at the Town Hall in the presence of the Mayor, Councillor David Longstaff said that all the recipients had made a tremendous impact on their communities.

Passionate

Admitting that she cried as her citation was read out, Maureen told *THE ARCHER*: "I have always loved young people; all of them. This is a passion with me. There is so much provision for nursery age children, but nothing for teenagers. One teenage boy told me that they are the throwaway generation."

It is this passion which drives Maureen to give teenagers a sense of their own worth, a safe place to go, and the opportunity to develop skills and talents. Since she and her "main right-hand lady" Maureen Antoinette started their phenomenally successful youth club in October 2005, hundreds of young people have enjoyed activities like music mixing, street dancing, cooking, art and craft, and organised football. Some have even appeared in a local film.

Finding a home

Though praised by local councillors and clergy, and by the Police Community Support Group for building bridges in East Finchley society, Maureen's biggest problem has been to find a permanent home. With membership growing from six to 300, at one stage, the club and its band of qualified vol-



unteer helpers have met in the Methodist Church, St Mary's RC Church, Martin School and the Old Barn.

It's been a bumpy journey recently, with membership dropping without the security of a permanent base offering all the facilities they need. But things are looking up again. From 15 April, the Monday Club is meeting in Holy Trinity School, from 6 to 8 pm. They can also play football on the HT field, and Maureen hopes that, with the agreement of the school, they can introduce cricket coaching for both boys and girls.

Congratulations, Maureen. In the words of the award citation, one of "the deserving people who do so much for the community".

Residents lose fight over new homes

By Mandy Rabin

Despite opposition from parents and staff of Tetherdown School, Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust and hundreds of local residents, Haringey Council's planning sub-committee has approved plans for building two luxury houses.

The homes will be built on a defunct depot site that forms part of an area designated as Significant Local Open Land (SLOL). The site, behind 2-16 Lauradale Road, lies north of the allotments adjacent to Fortis Green's covered reservoir.

Residents claimed the narrow access path to the site was heavily used by pedestrians and contained the entrance to

Tetherdown School, making the building of two houses a safety risk to pedestrians.

They have raised further concerns about the future of the SLOL after the archery club based on the open green space that forms the covered reservoir stated its intention to build a larger, brick club house after their wooden 1930s club house was destroyed by fire.



The air ambulance prepares for take-off from Manorside School's playground. Photo by Mike Hughes

Phone shop break-in

By Janet Maitland

Two men broke into Phone City on the High Road in the early hours of 10 April. The men got into the shop by forcing up the metal shutters, smashing the lower panes of glass and then crawling in.

Police were called at 2am by someone who saw the burglars breaking in, but they had snatched a few phones and run off down the High Road by the time police officers were able to get there.

Anyone with any information about this burglary is asked to call the police on 101, or, if they wish to remain anonymous, to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Air ambulance lands in school playground

ARCHER reader Mike Hughes took this photo of the air ambulance landing in Manorside School's playground in Squires Lane on Friday 12 April. The school was open at the time and children were arriving for an Easter holiday club.

The crew took a pedestrian to hospital with head injuries following a collision with a car. Squires Lane was closed for more than an hour from 9.30am and traffic was diverted around neighbouring roads.

Mike told us that for a long time now Manorside parents have been asking for a crossing on Squires Lane in front of the school to make crossing the road safer for the school's pupils and other pedestrians.



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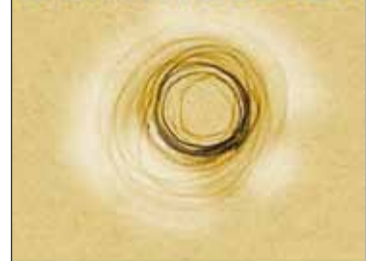
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