



YOUNG ARCHER



The Guides hard at work.

Guides go gardening again

By Toni Dietmann, 4th East Finchley Guides leader

THE ARCHER last reported on 4th East Finchley Guides' guerrilla gardening activities in September 2010. They have been at it again as part of their regular community service on 19 September, turning a disused piece of land in Prospect Ring into a beautiful site ready for the spring.

It all started after a conversation with Kevin O'Gorman, environmental services manager at Barnet Homes, who immediately had the area cleared of rubbish and overgrown bushes.

Having worked with the N2 Gardeners (<http://n2gardeners.blogspot.co.uk/>) near the tube station, the Guides knew who to turn to for advice. Harriet Copperman came to look at the area to suggest suitable plants. The Guides secured high-quality compost from LondonWaste (www.londonwaste.co.uk) and local tree surgeon, Jude (07971 626537), dumped wood chips for mulch

on site the night before the big dig.

Many of the Guides' parents donated plants and bulbs and two mums in particular helped direct the evening, Katalin Aradi and Gillian Rae. In all, 23 Guides dug more than 30 holes for the plants and buried approximately 200 bulbs.

Local support

Over the four weeks spent preparing the site there has been a huge positive response from local residents. The involvement and generosity of people connected with the Guide Unit and strangers alike was heart warming. It shows what can be achieved when a community

pulls together.

The area runs along the side of the Post Office depot and connects Prospect Ring to Market Place. It will be a riot of colour in the spring thanks to the hard work of Georgie, Jasmine, Anna, Annabel, Ella, Miranda, Rina, Amy, Esme, Milana, Ellie, Emily, Laura, Carmela, Izzy, Sophie, Layla, Gaby, Chloe, Zoe, Gili, Annika, and Alice.

(We're very grateful that 4th East Finchley Guides is currently thriving, but sadly it means there are no spaces.)

Tasty new youth club

Young people aged 8 to 13 years will find a warm welcome at the 3rd Space Youth Club run by Barnet Lone Parent Centre. The club runs every Tuesday from 4pm until 5.30pm at the Green Man Community Centre in East Finchley. The club welcomes all local children, not just those from lone parent families.

Everyone enjoys a freshly prepared meal cooked with the help of Natasha, the club's resident chef. The club

encourages young people to try new foods, even Brussels sprouts!

Club favourites include lamb koftas with yoghurt and dill dressing, lemon and herb chicken with green salad and sweet potato wedges. All this is washed down with gallons of freshly blended pineapple and carrot juice.

For those who are more creative Vicki, the club organiser, has art projects on the go. Young people have created gorgeous hand decorated candles, art worked T-shirts and have made personalised Father's day gifts.

Young people who just want to hang out and have fun challenge each other on xBox games, wii or footie in the garden. Winner gets to select a prize from the well-stocked tuck box.

For more information about the 3rd Space Youth Club and Barnet Lone Parent Centre look at www.loneparents.btck.co.uk or call 020 7021 4146

Bat counting in Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Putting up bat boxes in Coldfall Wood was a great idea, but who gets the fun job of cleaning them out? Luckily, Cindy Blaney, local bat expert, is happy to be cleaner, census-taker and photographer. Here she is up a tree finding all sorts of bat life (and even bat love, in one box). Preliminary findings



Checking a bat box in Coldfall Wood.

are encouraging: Coldfall's bats, both leislers and pipistrelles, are doing well.

Next month, look out for more information at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk

Stray cats saved from a cold winter outside

Neighbours in Brackenbury Road were worried that two stray cats found abandoned recently would not survive the winter outside. The brothers, pictured, were found as tiny kittens abandoned in a box.



Neighbours took turns to put out bowls of food and milk, and Spark, the local shop, also gave them milk. One of the cats even befriended a small

dog at one house and they tumbled around together in play. Luckily, as the cold autumn weather started to kick in, the neighbourhood network stepped up a gear and a homeowner in Hamilton Road volunteered to give the brothers a permanent home.



Resident Bev Cohen said: "The cats were always outside, whatever the weather. We often saw them looking for shelter and huddling in doorways and under cars. They were usually hungry and wanting affection and a real home." Looks like they've found it.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage
- **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at east-finchley.nct@googlemail.com
- **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com
- **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276
- **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- **Stepping Stones,** interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.
- **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thursdays 9.45am & 10.45am. Liz 07836 284538.

ART FAIR
2013



**SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER
11AM - 5PM**

TREEHOUSE SCHOOL
WOODSIDE AVENUE
MUSWELL HILL
LONDON N10 3JA

free admission, donations welcome
About Autism (reg charity 1063184)
www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

REFRESHMENTS

School fair

Holy Trinity Primary School is holding its annual fundraising Winter Fair on Saturday 30 November, with all welcome from midday until 2.30pm.

Go along to meet Santa, enjoy many side stalls, games, arts and crafts, buy a ticket for the raffle, feast on delicious food, celebrate a performance from the school choir and much more!