



New management at Old Barn

By Janet Maitland

The Charity Commission has taken the momentous step of issuing an order to appoint a new trustee at the Old Barn in Tarling Road. "Following an investigation, we believe that the charity has no validly appointed trustees," said a spokesperson at the commission.

Campaigners have been trying to restore this much-loved and valued community centre back to the local community ever since it was taken over by a group of people in 2010. These people acted as if they had the authority of trustees, discontinuing all the pioneering services for children and young people that the centre had provided for 25 years.

The only service they actually provided in four years was a nursery. This was closed by Ofsted in July after 18 months of failing to provide safe childcare. The building is currently deserted and the gates are padlocked.

New trustee

The commission is seeking to appoint Mobilise Public Limited as the new trustee. This company was appointed in September by Barnet Council to consult with local people about the kind of services they

want from the centre.

As soon as the formalities are completed, Mobilise will have the authority, as trustee, to review the constitution and then operate the centre. "At that point, they will be able to work with residents to establish how the Old Barn can be used for the benefit of the community," said a spokesperson from Barnet Council.



The Grace Spitfire

Café serves up sewing and knitting classes

By Diana Cormack

Delicia café and restaurant on Fortis Green brings more than food to its customers. On Tuesday evenings there is a sewing class from 7pm to 10pm led by a professional teacher. Sewing machines are available but you can bring your own if you wish.

The same applies to materials and to what you want to sew. This can be something

you already have in hand or an item offered in class such as clothing or household items. Contact Lisa Falconer on 07983 413 929, email theavidseamstress@yahoo.co.uk or visit www.theavidseamstress.co.uk

Knitting and crochet sessions are available, too, with details from genevieve@genevievesweeney.com

Meanwhile, an arts and crafts tutor is needed to teach on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. Phone 07879 816 420 or email deliciabobgrey@gmail.com

Of course, if you are interested in any of the above you can ask in Delicia at 4-5 Cheap-side, Fortis Green, where the business celebrated its first birthday on 26 October, no doubt with a particularly delicious cake!

The Grace Spitfire needs you!

By Diana Cormack

A 70-year-old Spitfire which served during the last 12 months of the Second World War can still be seen flying at special events in the UK. Built at Castle Bromwich in early 1944, the ML407 flew a total of 176 operational combats with six different allied squadrons of the RAF's Second Tactical Air Force.

A few years after the war the single-seater fighter was converted by Vickers-Armstrong into an advanced two seat trainer for the Irish Air Corps, then was put into storage before being offered for sale in 1968. After several years in a Scottish aircraft museum it was acquired in late 1979 by design engineer Nick Grace, who was following his dream of flying a Spitfire.

This he achieved in April 1985 when, after five years of meticulously restoring the plane, he took off with his wife Carolyn in the rear cockpit. The unmistakable sound of the Spitfire's Merlin engine was enjoyed at air displays all over Europe and the UK as Nick showed off the plane's paces.

Family carry on

Sadly, this lasted only until 1988 when Nick was tragically killed in a car accident. Left with their two young children, Carolyn determined that a Grace should pilot ML407 so she learned to fly it herself, going solo in 1990 when the plane became known as the Grace Spitfire.

Carolyn added aerobatic and formation to her qualifications and has continued to fly in tribute to and in memory of Nick and his intention that his Spitfire should carry on for generations to come. As well as piloting his father's plane, their son Richard keeps it maintained.

Keeping it flying is financially straining and their daughter Olivia started the Grace Spitfire Supporters Group in 1997. This is helped by JLT Insurance Brokers and their generous insurance sponsorship. Funding is needed, particularly in the winter when most of the maintenance is done and there is no income from flying displays. If you would like to help keep this Spitfire flying, visit www.ml407.co.uk, email cg@ml407 or call 01787 476 995 for further details.

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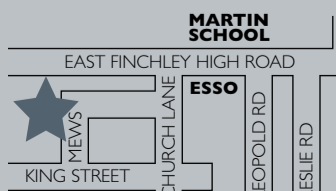
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<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>