



Give a room, give a future...

The North London YMCA and Family Action have set up a brand new project called Keeping Families Together (KFT). The KFT project is aimed at supporting 16-24 year olds in Haringey who are experiencing communication and relationship breakdown at home, often meaning they are at risk of homelessness or already homeless.

The project is recruiting hosts (single people, couples or families in Haringey and neighbouring boroughs) with a spare bedroom who would be prepared to house and provide practical support to a 16-24 year old for up to three months. During this time the KFT team will provide mediation and family support work to help improve relationships between the young person and their family to help the young person remain in or move back into their family home.

Hosts will receive training, on-going support and payment of between £160 and £175 a week.

Supported Lodgings

This is the first time this type of Supported Lodgings scheme has been set up in Haringey. However, as a brief introduction to this way of supporting and

housing a young person, there are more than 100 similar Supported Lodgings schemes throughout England, many of which are run by other YMCAs.

Living in Supported Lodgings brings numerous benefits for young people such as being housed and supported by a host in the caring, nurturing environment of their home and this has been found to be hugely beneficial to the young person.

If you have space in your home and feel that you would be able to take on this rewarding role then contact community host coordinator Tom Hill at the North London YMCA to find out more. Email: supported.lodgings@ymcahornsey.org.uk or phone 020 8340 2345. More details from www.northlondonymca.org.uk



A theatrical thank you

By Daphne Chamberlain

“A massive thank you” was how five former members of Finchley Youth Theatre (FYT) described their return to East Finchley last month. The newly formed Finch Theatre presented Casey Kurtti’s play Catholic School Girls in the place where they learned their craft.

Funny, touching and thought-provoking, the play demands great versatility from its performers. Charlotte Christie, Megan Fellows, Eleanor Hardy and Sophie MacKenzie switched in seconds from schoolgirls at different ages to the nuns who were their teachers. This involved not only changes in character but in accents, sometimes American, sometimes Irish.

Each girl had her turn under the spotlight, revealing more about their personalities and backgrounds to the audience. In turn, they drew the audience more and more into the action. Full credit, too, to director/stage manager Catherine Nolan for keeping up the energy of this fast-paced satire.

Megan Fellows, who acted as producer, told THE ARCHER: “We met in 2009, tackling

Martin Crimp’s *Attempts on Her Life* at FYT, and have remained close friends, while going our separate ways to universities and drama schools. I pitched *Catholic School Girls* to Liz Sacre, the bricks and mortar behind Finchley Youth Theatre, and a strong mentor and friend to us. We wanted to say a massive thank you to Liz and to

FYT for all the wonderful years spent there. All profits from our two-night run have gone directly to them.”

The Finch Theatre members are currently involved in their own creative projects, but would love to expand the company, explore new writing, and maybe even devise their own piece together.



Come on in - A host welcomes a young person

Top spot for school sports entrepreneur

By Diana Cormack

A Finchley sports coaching company which runs after-school activities in local schools recently featured in the national finals of the WorldPay UK Business Awards 2014. Non Stop Action won the London Regional Final under the Young Entrepreneur category in the Federation of Small Businesses’ search to find the UK’s best small business.

Alex Vainella accepted the award on behalf of the company which he established nine years ago at his old primary school in Whetstone. His aim was to provide professional, structured sports coaching to children of all ages and abilities, giving them the opportunity to experience and enjoy physical activity. Alex is well known to pupils at Holy Trinity, Martin and St Theresa’s who benefit from sessions in dance and football, as do primary school children all over the borough.



Alex Vainella Photo courtesy Non Stop Action

picture of what they offer visit www.NonStopAction.co.uk

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