



Page turners: Mums and babies enjoy reading time at the Highgate Family Centre

Family centre reopens its doors

A centre that provides a wide range of essential services to families with children under five reopens this month for the new term.

Highgate Family Centre, which is based at Highgate Primary School, North Hill, N6 4ED, offers services including midwives, health visitors, a baby weighing clinic and breastfeeding support.

Drop-in playgroups for different ages run each week alongside courses and classes including baby massage, weaning, sleep training workshops, baby and toddler First Aid and a baby sensory play

course.

During weekends the centre is available to hire and provides a popular venue for children's parties.

Providing a lifeline

Manager Katherine Nash-nush said: "Many parents see the centre as a lifeline, both in terms of the health services that are accessed and the social contact made possible for parents and their children through drop-in groups and courses."

For a current timetable and further information contact the centre by phone on 020 3213 0004, by email on familycentre@highgate-primary.haringey.sch.uk and through the website www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk

Summer in the pasture

By Daphne Chamberlain

Long Lane Pasture has completed its hat trick. For the third year running, it has been awarded the Green Flag Community Award. This year, Barnet has given only one of these awards, which are presented to parks and open spaces for cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement.

The piece of land, sometimes called Finchley's best kept secret, owes its existence to community involvement. This summer, local people have joined in a Pond Day, the national Big Butterfly Count (www.bigbutterflycount.org), a Dawn Chorus Walk and a Bird Count. "Butterflies are everywhere", report pasture volunteers: The pasture provides a home to Meadow Browns, Ringlets, Skippers, Gatekeepers, Speckled Woods, Commas, Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Peacocks, Orange tip and Large White butterflies. At least 35 different species of birds have been spotted too. Honey from the bees will be sold at the East Finchley Winter Festival in December.

If you haven't yet discovered this amazingly peaceful oasis, do go and find it. The pasture is at 256 Long Lane, N3 2RN, just across the North Circular and opposite the Fire Station. It's currently open every day, and you may still be in time to pick blackberries.

If you would like to help the volunteers who keep the whole thing going, drop in on Saturday mornings between 10am and noon. Recently the People's Postcode Lottery Trust has awarded enough money to buy a sit-on mower, a brush cutter, and safety equipment and gloves. For further information, email longlanepasture@gmail.com. You can read more about the pasture at www.longlanepasture.org.

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Brian Schwartz with Nathalie Parain's original artwork 'Cremerie'. Photo Mike Coles

An original from 1930s France

By Brian Schwartz, of the Black Gull Bookshop

We thought we would share a piece of art that arrived in-house last month. The artist is the Russian-born Nathalie Parain (1897-1958), who was a young woman working at the centre of the modern art movement in France in the 1930s.

Cremerie (1935) is a framed original gouache on paper, 28 x 24 cm. In the margins are a number of Parain's own pencil annotations, including a stamped signature. The piece originates from the artist's studio.

The image reproduced here is from the book *Faites Votre Marche*, editions MeMo, 2012, (originally published 1935). The painting differs from this printed version in that the number 3 tops and tails the Cremene sign in our original.

You can compare the two as they sun themselves in our window. The price of the painting is £1,250.

A friendly welcome awaits you

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