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Good catch: North Middlesex Girls with their silver medals from the 2014 Under-11 Lady Tavemers Competition.

Get reading... the same book

By Daphne Chamberlain

Every April, Cityread encourages everyone in London to read the same book in the same month. A friend told me, "You'll love this year's. It's like an adult Harry Potter in the Met." And you would never guess that from the title.

Rivers of London, by Ben Aaronovitch, does tell you about London's hidden history, but it's also the first of an urban fantasy/crime fiction series about a policeman apprenticed to a wizard. It's already a Sunday Times best seller, and I'll start it directly I've finished writing this. Why don't we share what we thought of it next time?

Discuss it with the author

Author Ben Aaronovitch is visiting Chipping Barnet Library to talk about his books on Friday 24 April, 6.30 – 8pm. Entry is free, but you can book a place and/or get more details from the

library on 020 8359 4040.

If this inspires you to start

ies are running a writing competition between 16 March and 1 May. Your story should be no more than 2,000 words, have a London setting, and the theme of Mysterious Metropolis.

Entrants must be 16 and over. Prizes are Brent Cross vouchers, worth £100, £50 and £25 for first, second and third. Details at www,barnet.gov.uk/library events/cityread.

Connected events

• Thursday 9 April, 6-7.30pm at Child's Hill Library

Nick Papadimitriou talks about a waterboard main running from Cherry Tree Wood to Kempton Park. 020 8359 3887 for details. Free entry. •Friday 17April, 7-8.30pmatChipping Barnet Library (adults only)

Geoff Barrett gives an adult version of Punch and Judy, and talks about the use of Mr. Punch in Rivers of London. Tickets £3. 020 8359 4040 for details.

• Thursday 30 April, 7-8 pm at Hendon Library

Local archivist Hugh Petrie talks about the violent and mysterious history of the Welsh Harp. 020 8359 2628 for details.

Girls' cricket... twice over!

Two local cricket clubs are urging girls to join the game and are offering spring training sessions to coach new players ahead of the summer season.

Finchley Cricket Club offers training and small side games on Friday evenings from 6-8pm starting on 17 April at the cricket ground in East End Road. Girls aged six to 17 can go along for a free taster session and there's no need to book.

The club says it has an enthusiastic and lively girls' section, with an emphasis on inclusivity and fun. Girls of all abilities including complete beginners are welcome and all players have access to highquality coaching. Juniors can feed through later into the club's adult teams. Find out more at www.finchleycricket.co.uk.

Equally, North Middlesex Girls Cricket team is looking to attract new players and build on its recent successes. The Under-11s were the 2014 champions of Middlesex and its Under-13s have done well too.

North Middlesex Girls practise every Saturday morning from 9am to 10.30am at the club's ground at 185a Park Road, Crouch End, N8 8JJ. There will be two match days in the 2015 summer season in which every girl can play.

If you would like to join, contact the club on this email address: nmcc.colts@gmail. com



It's a six: Batting at Finchley Cricket Club

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With the second royal birth expected in April, you could be in with the chance of winning a To enter, simply email info@hair202.com with the date you think the second royal baby will be born.

writing yourself, Barnet Librar-**Students support** asylum seekers

By Olivia Csaky

At my school we learnt about asylum seekers. They are people who were under threat in their home country so were forced to leave and come to St George's the UK with virtually nothing, to claim asylum. The Archer Academy decided Day parade to support a local project to help them. **Barnet Borough Scout Dis-**The project is a drop-in trict will mark St George's centre where they can get Day (23 April) with a support from doctors, lawyers parade on Sunday 26 April. and social workers. They also About 700 boys and girls, receive a hot meal and items together with three bands, of clothing if necessary. Each will march from Victoria month we decided to donate Park at 2pm. The route different things. So far we have will be along Ballards Lane, collected new underwear, choc-Regent's Park Road and olate coins and warm winter East End Road, N3, finishcoats. Next month we will be ing at Stephens (formerly collecting walking shoes. It has made us realise how Avenue) House grounds. lucky we are in the UK and how Here they will renew their much freedom we enjoy here. promises around 3pm.

8 APRIL 2015

