



Marchers listen to speeches at East Finchley library before setting off for Church End. Photo Mike Coles

Strength of feeling over saving libraries

By Daphne Chamberlain

The public consultation exercise may be over, but the campaign to protect our libraries continues. After a series of magnificent marches around the borough, some accompanied by the London Metropolitan Brass Band, like the one that departed from East Finchley library in mid-May, nobody can doubt how important our libraries are to us.

East Finchley Library Users Group (EFLUG) have been at the forefront of this campaign, and we are posting here some news from EFLUG's Polly Napper.

Council decision

"You may remember that we were anticipating a proposal from the council to close this summer. We understand now that the decision has been postponed until September.

Appeal for funds

"Publicity (for the marches) will use the last of the funds we have accumulated to help our campaign. If you are able to

donate please send payments to East Finchley Community Trust, who are holding donations on our behalf. Please make it clear that you're donating for the library (so they keep our funds separate from those of other groups). You can donate by **electronic transfer**: Sort code: 08-92-99; Account number: 65444614; Reference 'Library', or by **cheque** made payable to 'East Finchley Community Trust' and sent to: 50 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9QP. Please make clear in any covering letter/note that the cheque is for the Library Campaign."



Marching to save the libraries. Photo Mike Coles

Young volunteers at the library

If you are aged 14-18 and will have some spare time during your summer holidays, East Finchley library is seeking volunteers to help run its Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages younger children aged four to 11 to read six books over the summer.

Volunteers only need to spare eight hours across the whole summer and their role includes signing children up to the scheme, giving out stickers and prizes as they read their books and helping with planned activities. In return, library staff can give them a reference and their hours will count towards the DofE scheme.

For an application form, contact Lucy Merritt on 020 8359 4411 or email lucy.merritt@barnet.gov.uk. You can also download it from www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/libraries/teenage-library-services and return it by email or via the library. Applications are requested by Monday 15 June.

Letter to the Editor

Library plea

Mary Beer-Cleasby sent this letter to Barnet Council and invited us to print it too.

Dear Councillors

Thank you so much for your public service. I am sure it cannot be easy to govern in these difficult times. I am sure you are all good men and women of conscience and I am grateful for the work you do for our community. I am sure you care about not only the present day but the future.

Whether you're left or right or somewhere in between, I sincerely hope you can come to understand that libraries are all the more relevant and vital in the current age. As they are amongst the last remaining public spaces, they are promoters of pro-social behaviour and thus by definition act as weapons against anti-social behaviour.

They serve to inspire children to love books, learning and therefore reasoning and original thought. These qualities are on one hand priceless for their own sake but on the other hand very sound investments for the future because an intelligent, inspired and creative population is precisely the advantage a modern economy needs to compete on the global stage.

By keeping them within walking distance, you are encouraging children to walk and thus making a contribution to their physical health which, as I'm sure you all know, will save the NHS millions in the future if we have a fitter population, habituated to travelling on foot. By giving people of all ages a place within easy reach that fosters a sense of community, you are fighting the loneliness that is such a threat in this ever-isolated, digital age.

Old fashioned books make children curious and want to reach higher. And for that they need to browse and leaf through them in a physical environment.

Please see attached a picture of my son at the East Finchley Public Library which is without question his favourite place in the world and to which, at age two, he is able to travel on foot with me from nursery or from



home. He is literally reaching higher to learn. Please don't take that away from him.

Yours faithfully,
Mary Beer-Cleasby,
Address supplied.

Flower show and fancy hats

A busy month for Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society and its members. For anyone who would like to enter for the summer flower show, entry night is on Tuesday 9 June, 7pm to 8pm, at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11. Members are always present to advise first-timers.

The flower show itself takes place at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11, from 3pm to 5.30pm on Saturday 13 June, with home-made teas, raffle and a fancy dress competition for children and a fancy hats competition for adults. This year the theme for both is 'bugs and butterflies'. Entry for non-members is £2 (free for members, under-18s and anyone wearing fancy dress or a fancy hat).

Sunday 28 June sees many Horticultural Society members' gardens, large and small, open to the public around the Suburb from 2pm to 6pm. Proceeds will be shared jointly between The North London Hospice and the Horticultural Society (to fund future projects). Tickets cost £7.50 and tickets and maps will be available from 12 noon on the day from Fellowship House, where refreshments and plants will be on sale. Details of other events and how to join can be found at www.hortsoc.co.uk.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

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

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