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Champions: from the left Alma Strang, Arun Kapoor-Parsons, Louis Girling and Mingus Clark.

Fantastic four are quiz champions

By Jo Girling

Some of you may have seen the Fantastic Four film recently, but Martin Primary School can boast its own set of superheroes after winning the title of National Quiz Club Champions 2015.

The team is Alma Strang, Year 3, Mingus Clark, Year 4, Arun Kapoor-Parsons, Year 5, and Louis Girling, Year 6. A special mention must also go to William Morrison in Year 3, who was part of the semi-final team.

In January, Martin competed against 12 other London schools in the first heats of a general knowledge quiz organised by the Quiz Club. After winning their London heats, they faced the highest scoring schools from across the country: 12 final teams whittled down from an initial 1,700.

In the final against the Immanuel and St Andrew School from Streatham, the Martin team won the title by just 10 points on the final question.

Mingus said: "It was close at the end, but I thought we could win as we worked really well as a team throughout the whole tournament."

Tube ticket office to close and regular staff to leave

By Sheila Armstrong

Regular staff are being moved out of East Finchley tube station and the ticket office is to close by January 2016 as part of Transport for London's modernisation programme.

Ticket offices around us on the Northern line will close even sooner. High Barnet's and Highgate's will go by the middle of September, Kentish Town's and Archway's in October. Finchley Central, West Finchley and Totteridge and Whetstone have already lost their offices.

Machines, not people

With the disappearance of ticket office staff, travellers will need to rely on machines, online top-ups and contactless payments. Transport for London says all machines have been improved so staff can resolve problems on the spot.

Machines will sell most types of ticket with a few exceptions such as annual season tickets, which will be available online.

Our two regular station staff, Michael Haynes and Nino

Santos, will no longer be at East Finchley but will remain working at various stations in the area between Finchley and High Barnet.

Goodbye Michael and Nino

Talking to *THE ARCHER*, Nino said he will be sorry to leave East Finchley particularly as he has enjoyed working with the N2 Gardeners group on the Station in Bloom project.

Transport for London says adequate staff will still be deployed at all stations "equipped with portable hand-held devices loaded with information needed to help customers get around, including maps, real-time service levels, Journey Planner, ticketing options and prices and local information."

See Soapbox, page 11

Happy to be here

By Nick Young

East Finchley is the happiest place in London! Of course this is something that we at *THE ARCHER* have known for some time, but we now have the word of *Time Out* on this as well.

The magazine describes the High Road in particular as "groovy-yet-discreet" and East Finchley in general as an area

that "affords residents all the benefits of hipster culture while smugly wallowing in the chilled and reclusive charm of a leafy provincial bolthole". Hopefully they mean that in a good way.

East Finchley is also one of the friendliest places in London, the winner being nearby Muswell Hill, which was also a runner-up in the 'happiest' category.

These findings come from *Time Out's Great City Living Survey 2015*, published last month.

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