



How does your garden grow? A community plot is being opened for all-comers

Get down to earth in shared community garden

With spring well and truly sprung and summer not far away, now is a great time to get out into the fresh air, put on a pair of gardening gloves and get planting. But not everyone has easy access to their own garden or allotment.

That's why the EFAB team are setting up the new East Finchley Kitchen Garden, offering both novice and experienced gardeners the opportunity to grow fruit and vegetables in a sunny community plot in the grounds of Martin Primary School.

The project was the idea of Dawn Cremin, an avid vegetable grower on her plot at East Finchley Allotments, next door to Martin Primary.

Dawn explains: "I get so much pleasure out of growing my own produce I thought it would be great to share this interest so approached Lisa at EFAB with the idea. It's a great way to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together to learn or share skills and the produce tastes great too."

Saturday sessions

There will be two sessions a week initially. One will work with small groups of children from the school during their lunch hour one day a week and the other will be alternate Saturdays from 10am to midday for anyone to attend. Depending on interest, the garden can be opened more frequently for people to come and tend the plot.

Dawn and team are planning on growing a wide variety of

produce throughout the year. Whether you're waiting for an allotment, are an experienced gardener or new to it all, it should be a fun and relaxing way to spend some time outdoors in the fresh air. All tools and equipment will be provided.

Roger Chapman, EFAB Community Friend and local gardener, commented: "Both children and adults can get so much out of growing things. This promises to be a really exciting project and I urge people to give it a go and get involved."

To find out more and get involved contact Dawn for more information on 07939 530317 or email dawn@letstalkaboutveg.com.

Institute pulls back from brink of extinction

By Neil McNaughton

It used to be a central part of life in East Finchley but Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, which moved out of its home near the tube station to Kingsbury two years ago, recently came very close to extinction.

Rumours of financial difficulties had been around for some time, but the gravity of the situation had only come to light this year. Chairman Robin Marks had resigned along with executive director Jose Gonsalves and summer term lessons appeared to be in jeopardy.

Donations

A meeting of students took place on 7 April and an organisation entitled Supporters of the Institute Ltd was set up. The new organisation was asking supporters to donate at least £100 each to see whether £100,000 could be raised quickly enough to save the Institute, but with time running out this was looking unlikely.

Then at the last minute on 22 April an announcement was made that a new Board of Trustees has taken over and that classes would start again, albeit a week late on 25 April.

End of an era

The Institute was founded by Henrietta Barnett, with the original Institute Hall, in the centre of Hampstead Garden Suburb, opening in 1909. HGSI operated from this site for many years, with a second site on Thomas More Way, N2. It later moved to the McDonalds building in the High Road and then to its own purpose-built premises in Beaumont Close. When financial difficulties forced the sale of Beaumont Close (now home to the Archer Academy), some courses were moved to Bishop Douglass School, but in 2014 the Institute moved completely to Kingsbury.

Thousands of local residents over the years have had their lives enriched, learned new skills and met and retained new friends. Should it disappear it would certainly be the end of an era, but for now it looks as if the Institute has been brought back from the brink.

Businesses together

Local businesses in East Finchley have joined together to form a network to generate revenue and help address the issues that face local businesses.

The support network and social forum for all of the trades in N2, including shops as well as home workers and independents, will provide a chance to meet and to work together constructively, forging closer links with the neighbourhood and reinforcing an already strong local community.

Due to be launched formally at the East Finchley Festival on 19 June, the network encourages any local businesses not yet involved to get in touch via: eastfinchleybusiness@gmail.com.

Four charged after man's death

Four men have been charged with murder after a man was stabbed in broad daylight in North Finchley on 29 March.

Police were called at 2.45pm to reports of a wounded man collapsed in the street in Woodside Grange Road at the junction with Grange Way. The victim, Ali Nasrollahi, was in cardiac arrest when the air ambulance arrived. He was treated at the scene then rushed to the London hospital trauma centre but died later that afternoon.

John Opoku Appiagyei, 29, of Ballards Lane, N3, Francis Osei Appiagyei, 23, from Brentford, Bright Osei, 21, of Ballards Lane, N3, and Nelphy Lelu, 22, of Portsdown Avenue, NW11, were charged with murder. A fifth man has been arrested on suspicion of murder and bailed pending further enquiries.

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