



The 2016 Big Local festival at Bishop Douglass School Photos Mike Coles

# Everyone comes out to play

By Sheila Armstrong

Soccer skills and scrumptious cakes were on display at the fourth annual Grange Big Local festival held at Bishop Douglass School on Sunday 25 September. There was live music and a bouncy castle too, and a chance to talk to people involved in the regeneration project.

The Grange Big Local, bordered by the High Road, North Circular, East End Road and Church Lane, is one of 150 areas in the UK to receive £1 million from the National Lottery to enhance their communities.

It now has a paid worker, Jon Woolfson, and as reported in The Archer in August, has been instrumental in re-establishing

a free advice service run by the Citizens Advice Bureau at the St Mary's Parish Centre in the High Road.

Find out more about the project team's plans for the future and how you can get involved at [www.grangebiglocal.org](http://www.grangebiglocal.org) or email Jon at [info@grangebiglocal.org](mailto:info@grangebiglocal.org).

# Christmas festival to take a year off

After four successful, if occasionally windy and cold, events that have brought people out on the High Road in their hundreds, the East Finchley Christmas Festival is taking a rest this year.

The organisers at East Finchley Community Trust need a breather after a very successful summer festival in Cherry Tree Wood back in June, so Santa and his reindeer will be able to relax back home in Lapland in early December this year and get their strength up for delivering presents locally on Christmas Eve.

But the Trust still wants to mark the festive season this year and is hoping to stage an evening of late night shopping on the High Road with carols, music, mulled wine and good cheer.

They are working with the newly launched business network N2United to make it a fun event that encourages everyone to come out and dine and to shop for food and gifts. Watch out for more details next month.

A reminder that if you want

to get involved in helping to organise or find out more about the East Finchley Festival in summer 2017 there'll be a meeting organised by the East Finchley Community Trust on Wednesday 2 November starting at 7.30pm at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2.

Chair of the Trust Roger Chapman said: "The summer festival, organised entirely by local volunteers, is approaching its 40<sup>th</sup> year and always needs new blood to bring fresh ideas and keep it vibrant. If you'd like to find out how the festival works or help to make it happen then please come along or drop us an email to [eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com)."

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