



Food boxes fail to fool foxes

It's well known that East Finchley is home to many urban foxes. They share our green spaces and gardens, and can often be seen strolling the streets both day and night.



Now their strategy for survival in the suburbs has taken another step forward. Readers are reporting to us that their local foxes have learned how to break into the brown food boxes left out for recycling collections.

Even though these boxes can be locked by careful positioning of their black plastic handles, our visiting scavengers refuse to be foxed.

They've worked out how to release the lock mechanism, then tip the box over to open the lid, enabling them to take their pick

of any edible morsels inside.

One fox or family of foxes in the Cherry Tree Wood and Park Hall Road area is particularly adept at this trick. Neighbours there say they wake up some mornings to find a whole series of recycling boxes broken into.

Jeanette Levin, who sent us the photo of a visitor in her back garden in Church Vale, says the foxes up her way have done the same. She says one makes an appearance most days, often hanging around her bird feeders waiting for any food to drop onto the ground.



A funny thing happened: Father Christopher Hardy presides over the wedding of Bec Hill and Gavin J Innes.

Vicar has them rolling in the aisles

Fr Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints' in Durham Road, N2, kept the congregation laughing when he conducted a wedding at the Edinburgh Fringe arts festival in August.

He conducted the wedding of London-based Australian comedian Bec Hill and her fiancé Gavin J Innes. It was a first for Fr Christopher because the wedding venue wasn't a church but the stage of the Gilded Balloon, a theatre, comedy and cabaret spot in

the Scottish capital, where the groom proposed to the bride three years ago.

More than 200 guests attended, most of whom were comedians, including all the bridesmaids. Rather than being overawed by being in the presence of so many funny folk, Fr Christopher more than held his own and his 'performance' conducting the service even won him the Best Newcomer Award in Laugh Out London's Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Awards.

To quote Laugh Out London: "Magical stuff and we hope to see him back with a full hour next year."

A special summer

The Edinburgh wedding came at the end of a summer when Fr Christopher and his parishioners had plenty of reasons to celebrate.

At the start of July they

marked the silver jubilee of his ordination. Geoffrey Hanson, Director of Music at All Saints', and the choir, pulled out all the stops for a service, with the Missa Brevis by Gabrieli, and the anthem, Exsultate Jubilate by Ludovico Viadana.

In addition, Jennifer Bate, the well-known concert organist and a member of the congregation, played the Fugue in C minor by J S Bach at the end of the service. A number of old friends joined parishioners for the celebrations which continued after the Parish Mass with champagne and a presentation of a cheque to Fr Christopher.

A few days later, Fr Christopher celebrated 21 years in the parish and, when making his normal weekly visit to Holy Trinity School that day, he received thankyou cards from children in each of the classes there.



Paint job: The GoodGym gang redecorate the RSPCA clinic.

A good run and a good deed

A new fitness group has started meeting in East Finchley where runners harness all their energy to get fit and do good at the same time.

Instead of running nowhere on treadmills or lifting weights that don't need lifting, GoodGym members meet at the Phoenix Cinema on Tuesday evenings for a short run followed by a physical task that helps someone out.

So far, the runners have raked hay at Long Lane Pasture and painted the walls at the RSPCA clinic in Park Road. The weekly runs are free and open to all abilities. Organisers say they build community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

Runner Rebecca says:

"Those lazy weeks when I just want to sit on the sofa, it gets me up, it gets me out there knowing that someone's waiting."

Turn up at the Phoenix at

6.45pm on Tuesdays if you want to join in. And get in touch if you have a good deed that needs doing. The website is www.goodgym.org.

Holy Trinity Church Church Lane, East Finchley Church of England

*We're a warm and friendly congregation
who look forward to welcoming you*

Sunday Parish Communion at 10.00 am

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