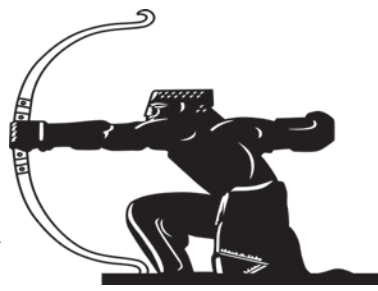




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Artist Marcus Coates with a reproduction of Van Dyck's self portrait. Photo Mike Coles

How did you get to Destination East Finchley?

By Cathy Young

Martin Primary School is to be at the centre of a major initiative for 2017, celebrating the diversity of the school and the wider local community. The project, entitled 'Destination East Finchley' is funded by a lottery grant.

It will capture the journeys that people have made to become residents of, or set up businesses in, East Finchley. Community groups such as the East Finchley Open and East Finchley Altogether Better have already been contacted by the school and the ideas are flowing.

The school's annual International Week in July will be extended this year to include a range of cultural activities celebrating the arrival of residents through stories, music, art and any other medium participants would like to explore.

Ideas and plans

The school will play a more active part in the annual East Finchley Festival, hosting a story-telling tent where people, old and young, can share their journeys and contribute to an exhibition. In the tent there will be a large map showing local streets. People can write a few words about how they came to be in N2 on small houses and place them on the streets.

EFAB will be encouraged to collaborate in creating a community choir with the school, mixing several genera-

tions, and a performance poet will visit the school to help pupils, families and EFAB members to collaborate in writing poetry together. The poems and songs will reflect the themes of diversity and life journeys and will be performed at the EF festival and become part of the final exhibition.

Lasting impact

The school is also hoping to use East Finchley Open members to bring art workshops into the school, working towards an exhibition to be displayed as a permanent fixture on the Martin school railings, alongside the stories and poetry from the other workshops and the festival.

It is hoped that the projects set up by the initiative will continue long after the initial scheme is over, reflecting a desire to celebrate and promote the rich cultural heritage of the school and wider community. If you or your organisation would like to be involved with this initiative please contact the school office: office@martinprimary.barnetmail.net.

Double take at Dutch double
Why is this man pointing excitedly at a portrait in a charity shop window? Find out on page 6.

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Library to shut

East Finchley Library is to be shut to the public for four months. The closure is part of Barnet Council's plan to adapt the Grade 2 listed building in the High Road to a slimmed-down service.

Doors to the library will be closed from Monday 3 April and reopen on Monday 7 August. Floor space will be shrunk and facilities rearranged ahead of a reduction in book stock and staffed opening hours.

Library users are angry at the long closure period, which will last throughout the summer exam period, meaning young people will be unable to use the library for research or as a place to revise.