



# Carry on banking in East Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

As we reported last month, the East Finchley branch of NatWest will close later this year. Although the majority of people bank online, there is a sizeable minority who still prefer personal contact. Elliot Jacobs from UOE points out that they can still have a counter service in our local post office, without having to change their bank.

He told *The Archer*: "Yes, we can do the banking for virtually all the major banks in the UK. We already do all of Santander's business banking following the closure of their local branch last year. We are open longer every day than NatWest is, too."

Customers from other banks can pay into and make withdrawals from their accounts at the Post Office. They can check their balances too. There is no charge for these services.

## Transfers and Moneygram

But can we transfer money between bank accounts at the Post Office? UOE told us: "Obviously NatWest and other

banks are keen to get people online doing this kind of thing. So the only way we could do that would be if you had a card that allowed withdrawals and deposits on each of your accounts. Then we could do it in less than a minute."

The Post Office also offers the Moneygram service which can send money to bank accounts abroad as well as cash for collection in thousands of locations across the globe. The funds can arrive in as little as 10 minutes.

The NatWest website lists East Finchley, Finchley Central, Whetstone and Temple Fortune as the branches that will be closing. Muswell Hill and North Finchley branches will remain open.

# Spring plant sale

Plotolders at Gordon Road Allotments, N3, are hosting a spring plant sale on Sunday 21 May from 10am.

Get along early for the best choice of young vegetable plants, bedding plants and unusual perennials, all grown by members of Finchley Horticultural Society. Tea and cakes will be available too. For further information contact [finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:finchleyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com).

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# Window display

While we wait to hear when, if ever, Sainsbury's will open its proposed Local store on the High Road, photographers from the East Finchley Open group of artists are making best use of the company's vacant premises with a pop-up exhibition of their studies of life on the High Road. Sainsbury's gave permission for the windows of the former Mama Jack's burger restaurant to be used for the display, which will be topped up with new images from time to time.



Staff outing: Jane and Steve Conway, with Shona and Julie, are greeted by teachers at the school in Kolhapur.

# A visit to faraway friends

The blue, turquoise and yellow colours of Martin Primary School are proudly worn on the wrists of 180 children in the south of India and on the walls of their modest classrooms hang pictures and decorations made by children in East Finchley.

Martin Primary teachers Shona Glackin and Julie Taylor experienced for themselves the friendship link with Tryamboli Vidyalaya School on the outskirts of the large city of Kolhapur when they spent a week teaching there.

## Gifts and crafts

Prior to their visit, children from all year groups at Martin Primary used every spare minute to make friendship bracelets, books about London and East Finchley and a particularly special handcrafted edition of *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle, with text in both English and Marathi, the Indian language spoken in Maharashtra. Shona and Julie even took some extremely colourful bunting made by Year Two children, which now adorns one of the classrooms.

The children of Tryamboli School, who are aged between 3 and 13, were delighted with the gifts and, in return, made a picture book and miniature



Friendship bands: Kolhapur children wear the bracelets made for them in East Finchley.

clay toys, which are proudly on display back in East Finchley.

## Growth of a school

The partnership is the direct result of a five-year project led by former parent and governor Jane Conway and her husband Steve, from Bedford Road, N2. The Conways first discovered the school on a trip to India in 2012 when it was just one small building with no facilities.

Since then it has been transformed into four classrooms with a fifth under construction and now has electricity and running water.

Westerners are not often seen in Kolhapur and the visit created a lot of interest in the local community; the twinning of the two schools was even featured on the local TV station and in several newspapers.



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