



YOUNG ARCHER

Golden chance for generations to enjoy each other's company

By Karen Williamson

A new drop-in for grandparents and toddlers is starting at the Ann Owens centre in East Finchley inspired by Channel 4 show *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds*, where older people and nursery children spend time together.

There'll be toys and games for the children and tea and biscuits for the grandparents, plus a chance for everyone to take part in a fun, gentle exercise class together.

"If you look after your grandchild this is a great way to meet other people in the same position and entertain your grandchild at the same time," says Age UK Barnet's Howard Chapman. "And the older people in our Thursday Club will enjoy spending time and chatting with the children too."

This new group is part of a drive at Age UK Barnet to launch schemes that involve older people mixing with different age groups, as research shows that it's one of the most effective ways of combating loneliness.

Intergenerational x three
Age UK Barnet already runs

two successful intergenerational projects: IT support groups where teenage children help older people with their computer or phone, and men's beginners cookery classes where the teenagers help teach older men how to cook.

"We are sure that the older people and toddlers will have fun together, share experiences and learn from one another," says Howard. "And if the first session goes well we hope it will become a weekly event."

The first grandparent and toddler group session takes place on Thursday 28 March from 10am till 12pm. The first one is free, but in future there may be a small charge or donation for refreshments and the exercise class. For more information contact Howard on 020 8432 1415 or email him on howard.chapman@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Nature discovered on their doorstep

Youngsters from Scribbles nursery in Hertford Road, N2, have been out and about exploring nearby nature and learning to appreciate the wild treasures on their doorstep.

The children have made bird feeders and bat boxes for the nursery garden and gone out on a series of nature hunts, spotting trees and animal homes. Now their love of nature has been rewarded with bronze, silver and gold certificates in the RSPB's Wild Challenge, which is all about helping wildlife to thrive.

The nursery's Jill Hallums said: "We all absolutely loved going out exploring. The children began to respect the animals and plants and learned lots of ways to protect them, like recycling. Their concern for the local woodland creatures was so great we even went on several litter picking trips as well."



Forest floor: A Scribbles youngster looks out for animal habitats.

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Nice mice: Pupils at Kolhapur wave characters from their reading scheme, with Shona Glackin, middle left, and Julie Taylor, right, from Martin School.

Pupils spread joy of reading

Children at Martin School in East Finchley have been strengthening their friendship with youngsters at a school in the west of India by raising money to buy them reading books.

Martin pupils had the idea of holding a Readathon which raised £3,500 and the money was used to buy the *Jolly Phonics* reading scheme to help pupils at the Tryamboli Vidyala School in Kolhapur with their literacy skills.

Teachers Julie Taylor and Shona Glackin travelled to Kolhapur, midway between Mumbai and Goa, to kickstart the reading scheme alongside Vrushali, the English teacher there. Martin School has had links with Tryamboli Vidyala since 2015.

Julie and Shona reported that the children learned five sounds in just one week. In return for

the books, the Indian children made gifts of Diwali lanterns to bring back to East Finchley.

Julie Taylor said: "The money raised from the Readathon will also pay for a trainer to visit from Mumbai to train Vrushali and other teachers

and we hope that *Jolly Phonics* will become part of their curriculum."

Any surplus cash will be used to fund a shelter outside the main school building where pupils can take cover from the sun or heavy rain.

FUN and MUSIC for BABIES and TODDLERS in N2 on **TUESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS** at 10am



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Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 20 March Professor Gregory Dart, UCL, explores London through the poetry and prose of Coleridge, Wordsworth, Lamb, De Quincey, Keats and Hazlitt.

Reduced sub for new members. Contact Eric (8449 0566).

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(11.00 a.m. on Wednesdays)

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

New singers are always welcome.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

PARENT & BABY/ CHILD ACTIVITIES

• **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at babymassagewithruth@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/babyandubabymassage

• **EF NCT meet** Tuesdays 2.30pm at The Old White Lion. Contact eastfinchley-nct@haringeynct.org

• **Musical Tots:** 10.45 Tue at The Angel, N6, Weds The Old White Lion and Fridays The Five Bells N2. Katemusicaltots on facebook.

• **Phoenix Cinema activities.** Bringing up babyscreenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 11pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.

• **Stay and Play** Thurs 9.30-11.15 Green Man Centre, Gary 8359 3640

• **Stepping Stones/Teddy Bears' Music:** music and fun for 0-3s, East Finchley Baptist Church Tues and Thurs 10am. Liz 07836 284538.

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