



Speaking out: The East Finchley protesters in Parliament Square. Photo Hazel Mason

Rebellion grandparents join young strikers

By Daphne Chamberlain

Extinction Rebellion Grandparents stood alongside young protestors in Parliament Square last month. Around 50 of them joined in with yellow flags and a banner reading "XR grandparents in solidarity with student strikers".

East Finchley resident Hazel Mason, who formed the Grandparents Facebook group, told *The Archer*: "We are aware that it is our generation which has contributed most to the rise in CO2 in the atmosphere and the consequential rise in global temperatures. Very late in the day, both for ourselves and the planet, we are doing what we can to help youngsters have a voice to determine their future."

"As well as teenagers and school groups, parents were there with their younger children. It was interesting talking to students and parents about how they and their schools handle the question of climate strikes."

Schools become involved

Hazel told us that many schools have very supportive policies. These include allowing strikers to alternate attendance so that it is not always the same ones missing school, and/or arranging staff or parent accompaniment to safeguard particular age-groups.

She heard that some schools have declared a climate emergency, and that many are holding a 'Climate Week', when they go off-curriculum in order to

focus on climate and ecology.

Hazel herself is among outside speakers being invited into schools to talk about the climate crisis, Extinction Rebellion, and about what students can do themselves. She told us that she will be meeting the Young Global Ambassadors from the Archer Academy in East Finchley after half-term to see which initiatives the school and the students would like to implement. Follow XR news and events on Facebook.

Moped in close shave with child on public footpath

By Janet Maitland

A teenager on a moped almost hit a three-year-old boy when speeding along a public footpath off Long Lane in East Finchley.

"If I hadn't grabbed the back of my son's hood and pulled him out of the way, I don't know what might have happened," said the toddler's mother, a local resident who was walking along Ploughman's Walk on her way to pick up her daughter from school on Tuesday 4 February.

"I can't sleep for thinking about it. He was going so fast and making such a noise I thought it was a helicopter overhead at first. He came off Long Lane and straight down the footpath at about 25 miles an hour and he didn't stop after he nearly ran us over, just carried on speeding down the footpath."

The rider is described as about 15, wearing jeans and a grey hooded top. The scooter had L-plates. The resident reported the incident to the police and has also written to MP Mike Freer to see if anything can be done to prevent

this happening again.

We asked Jan Lovell of the Safer Neighbourhood Team if there was CCTV on any of the footpaths in East Finchley. She confirmed that Barnet Council has installed just eight cameras, one on the junction between East End Road and Ossulton Way, and the rest on the High Road. None are on footpaths.

Activity volunteers

Age UK Barnet is looking for volunteers to help it offer vital services in the community, particularly walking group volunteers who can lead or assist with walks for older people in local open spaces, drivers to help clients attend activities, and activity volunteers.

For more information, contact volunteer manager Lisa Robbins at volunteering@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call her on 020 8432 1422.

Woman arrested after man dies in fall from high rise

By Janet Maitland

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a man fell to his death from the sixth floor of a block of flats in North Finchley.

Police were called by the London Ambulance Service to reports of a critically injured man on the High Road, North Finchley opposite the arts depot at 3.20pm on Wednesday 12 February. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Formal identification awaits, but the deceased is believed to be a 33-year-old man, originally from Eastern Europe but living in North Finchley. A 28-year-old woman was arrested at the scene

on suspicion of murder and was taken to hospital for treatment for minor injuries and then detained in a North London police station. It is believed that the man and woman knew each other.

Anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101 or contact via Twitter @MetCC, quoting CAD 4634/12FEB. To give information anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at crimestoppers-uk.org



Circle of trust: Ruth Sabrosa, in grey jacket, leads a mother and daughter group at Muswell Hill Library.

Ways to keep family relationships strong

By Zoe Behagg

A mother and daughter circle aimed at six to 12-year-old daughters and their mums will show ways that mothers and children can remain connected from the early years through to their teens.

Led by Ruth Sabrosa, founder of Mindful Mothering, the session will focus on poet, singer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou, with activities looking at ways to communicate and speak your mind truthfully, such as how to say 'no' to friends and value your own opinions.

"A third of teenagers suffer from anxiety, and research indicates that this number is rising," says local clinical psychologist Dr Jenny McGillion. "Anxiety can negatively impact personal relationships, schoolwork, hobbies and general wellbeing."

"Parents often feel overwhelmed and confused about how best to respond to their child's psychological problems, though most parents understand that communication is a good starting point."

The Mother and Daughter Circle will be held at Tomato Tutors, High Road, N2, on

International Women's Day, Sunday 8 March. Tickets cost £25 and are available online at ruthsabrosa.com.

Special dress

Ruth is also hosting a Family Empowerment Circle at Muswell Hill Library, which is for boys and girls of all ages. This free event on Monday 9 March between 4pm and 5pm will include meditation, activities and discussion on important women from history.

Special guest Lucy Tammam will join the circle to talk about her One Dress project, a unique piece of textile art embroidered in the UK, India and Kenya by women. Every woman involved in One Dress is paid fairly for their time and skill.

You can support the project by buying your own word or sentence to appear on the 'Dress' to show what women's empowerment means to you. Find more information at ruthsabrosa.com

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