



Tarling Road community hub is becoming... a hub

By Janet Maitland

Bookings are at last picking up at the under-used community centre in Tarling Road, N2, following efforts to make the building more welcoming and a review of rental charges.

A youth club now meets twice a week, for pre-teens on Friday evenings and older children on Thursdays, with football, dance, boxing, basketball and table tennis sessions run by volunteer coaches.

There's also a keep fit class for over-55s, a sports group for adults with autism, a church group, ballet classes, and a council mental health group. An engagement party and a baby shower are coming up.

Barnet Council has removed the tarpaulin that covered the fence for a long time, to make it clear that the garden is open to anyone, apart from a small area of playground space directly outside the Just Like Home nursery premises, which is included in their council lease. You don't need to attend anything in the building to be able to use the garden and the main gate should be open most of the time.

Financial issues

It has been a long struggle to make the centre as affordable as possible. This is because the council is unable to pay for any running costs. London City YMCA, contracted by the council to manage the centre, introduced two different hire charges, one for businesses and



Booking now: Tarling Road Community Hub

a reduced one for community use, but this will change from September.

"We decided to simplify the scheme," said centre manager Jon Woolfson. "The differential wasn't particularly helpful." Everyone will now pay the same rate. For the hall, this is the same as the previous community rate, apart from evenings and weekends when it is a little cheaper than the old rate. While there will be a 'modest increase' to the previous community cost of hiring office space, the office costs for businesses will be about 25% less expensive.

Hire cost

The main hall costs £35 an hour to rent from Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm and £38 in the evening and weekends. Office rates are between £300 and £350 a month and a co-working desk space is £100 a month.

The centre can be contacted on 020 7018 6560 or tarlingroad@ymcalcan.org. For online bookings go to <https://hallbookingonline.com/tarlingroad>. For general information go to ymcalondoncan.org/our-services/youth-hubs/tarling-road

Songwriter seeks someone to sing

By Diana Cormack

Anthony Abbey has written poems for a number of years. It was only after his music teachers saw them and put some to music that he began to consider himself as

a lyricist. Since his retirement he has continued with this writing and his music teacher, now based in Australia, still puts music to his words.

Ten of their joint creations can be heard on YouTube and five on Spotify. Each has an instrumental backing accompanying a male or female singer. However, Anthony wants something more for his songs so he contacted *The Archer*, which he picks up on his regular visits to the Phoenix Cinema.

He told us he is looking for someone willing to play and perform them, preferably in some sort of community setting. If this of interest to you call him on 020 8201 7986 or email tonysboneys@yahoo.co.uk

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

You are welcome to join us for:

**Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.**
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:

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

Bargain hunt

The regular Muswell Hill Indoor Carboot Sale takes place this month on Saturday 28 August from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, at the foot of Muswell Hill on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and there are refreshments available. For information, contact: 020 8368 8180.

Spectacular sights from the saddle

Greta Brambilla guides you on another local cycling tour, this time taking in the beautiful roads and special sites of Highgate and Muswell Hill. When cycling, please remember to give right of way to pedestrians and dismount where no cycling is allowed.

Hello fellow cyclists, I hope you are well and ready for a new route. This one takes you round Queen's Wood and Ally Pally and can be completed in just under an hour. To start, head down the High Road towards East Finchley station, using the new cycling lanes (ooh la la) and then up the Great North Road.

At the top, cross over carefully at the zebra crossing to go through the little shortcut on the right to Sheldon Avenue. Enjoy a leisurely ride up this lovely avenue and turn left onto the beautiful Denewood Road. At the end, go left on Broadlands Road, straight down the passageway and onto The Park. Continue until you reach Southwood Lane where you should turn left.



Circuit: The route takes in Highgate and Ally Pally

South and down the passageway on your right for a nice little detour in Priory Park before exiting towards the left (through more tennis courts) onto Priory Road. Go right down here, then left onto Nightingale Lane. Continue until Alexandra Park pops into view, turn left down North View Road and then right for the passageway into the park.

Follow this to meet Alexandra Park Way where you turn right. When it looks like you are about to exit the park, take the left passageway and head straight to enjoy more of the lush green space, eventually leading to the boating lake, a great spot for rest and refreshment. To get home, continue past the lake (with the car park on your left) heading straight onto Dukes Avenue to exit. When you hit Muswell Hill's roundabout, go right



Swan lake: A tranquil pit stop at Ally Pally

Heading straight across Archway Road, veer right to go down Wood Lane and into

down Queens Avenue to reach Fortis Green and back to the High Road where you started.

the ancient oak-hornbeam paradise of Queen's Wood. Admire the greenery here, perhaps sunbathe a little and continue straight on. Turn right just after the award-winning Mona's Garden onto the Greenways path which takes you out of the park (after the tennis courts on your right).

At Park Road, cross straight over onto Park Avenue



Stone circle: Can you find this sculpture on the way?