



Playground: The Toy Library at the Green Man Centre in Strawberry Vale would welcome new items to lend. Photo Mike Coles.

Declutter and donate those pre-loved toys

By Diana Cormack and Nina Gentry

The original East Finchley Toy Library was active nearly 40 years ago. Founded by our now local councillor Claire Farrier, it was run by a group of local mothers, with a variety of toys and games available in the Herbert Wilmott Centre, now the site of The Archer Academy car park.

Children could try out their choices before taking them home, many in draw-string bags made by the organisers. After the centre was demolished the team of volunteers tried unsuccessfully to find a home in the then recently closed Cherry Tree Wood pavilion, which had housed a nursery.

Nowadays the Green Man Community Centre at Straw-

berry Vale hosts Finchley Community Toy Library twice a week. At present it is holding a pre-loved toy and book drive to raise funds for the service.

Can you help by sorting out your children's unwanted items and donating them to the library? All good quality toys and books for children aged 0

to five will find a good home.

The Toy Library welcomes

families on Monday afternoons from 1.15pm to 3pm and Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am. There is toddler stay-and-play time with creative art activities and singalong songs for children plus tea and coffee for parents and carers with an opportunity to meet other local families.

You can donate your preloved items at the Green Man Community Centre on Mondays and Tuesdays. For more information email kealey.kissiedu@blpc.org.uk or call 07518 825429. The website is www.blpc.org.uk and you can follow 'barnetloneparents' on Facebook.

Faith and Peace walk

By Daphne Chamberlain

Saturday 25 June is the day planned for a Faith and Peace walk around East Finchley. It will coincide with the 200th anniversary of East Finchley Methodist Church, but is a multi-faith venture. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to follow a specific faith or belief to join in.

The organisers told us: "We will look at the area's long and rich history, and see how it has evolved into the present vibrant village community of many different traditions." The plan is to visit places of interest, including those used for worship.

The timetable is from 11am to 4pm, with regular stops at various venues to hear about their work, enjoy light refreshments and use facilities. Full details

will be available nearer the day.

If you would like to attend, please register by going to www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching 'East Finchley Faith and Peace Walk'. To volunteer as a steward on the day, or if you have any questions, email the organisers from Barnet Multi-Faith Forum at: faithwalk@barnetmulti-faithforum.org or contact the walk telephone number: 07548 743245.

Nature reserve closes after damage by vandals

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture were forced to close the nature reserve temporarily last month after vandals caused damage to the site and its wildlife habitats. A table top and cycle tyres were thrown into the pond and equipment was damaged.

The pasture, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3, is a refuge for wildlife and is much loved by visitors as a place to enjoy some natural beauty. As we went to press, the pasture volunteers were hoping

to reopen the gates soon.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

**10 years ago:
June 2012**

Legal action to block a rise in Barnet Council's Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) charges was back on track after the Court of Appeal overturned a deputy judge's earlier dismissal of the case. A Court of Appeal judge reinstated the legal challenge brought by East Finchley resident David Attfield against the huge increase in parking permit charges from £40 to £100.

**15 years ago:
June 2007**

We reported on the amalgamation of Martin Nursery and Infant School and Martin Junior School into a new two-form entry primary school from September 2007. Head of the new school was to be Maggie Driscoll, the then headteacher of Martin Juniors. Since then the school has been enlarged and now has a thriving three-form entry system.

**25 years ago:
June 1997**

Long-time High Road supermarket Budgens celebrated its parent company's 125th birthday with staff dressing up in Victorian costumes to serve customers with free drinks. Also, Hampstead Garden Suburb celebrated its 90th anniversary this month with a festival in Central Square, while Holy Trinity School's 150th anniversary was marked with performances of a play entitled *Oranges and Lemons*, a musical history of East Finchley.

Yesterday's news today

You can explore all the news from East Finchley over the last 29 years in our online archives, where nearly every edition of The Archer since 1993 is available to browse for free. Find them at www.the-archer.co.uk



Made it: A team of walkers reaches the finish line near Westminster Abbey.

Hospice walkers have fun

More than 1,000 people took part in the Big Fun Walk at the start of May, North London Hospice's biggest fundraiser of the year, which this year raised £120,000 for patient care.

It's the first time since the pandemic that supporters have gathered together to take part in walking the traditional 8.5-mile route through London's royal parks from Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley to Westminster.

They walked in memory of friends and family who have been cared for by the hospice or just to raise cash for the charity, which cares for more than 3,500

people facing life-limiting or terminal illness each year in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

North London Hospice Chief Executive Declan Carroll said: "It was wonderful to welcome people back to Big Fun Walk after three years. At times I could see a sea of green t-shirts snaking their way through the parks, which made me immensely proud."



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Green Man Community Centre
Strawberry Vale N2 9BA

EVERYONE WELCOME
to our informal service followed by afternoon tea

Contact helenshannon@stbarnabas.co.uk or 07866507609

We are a Church of England church, working alongside the local parish churches in the Diocese of London. We don't have our own building, but meet in the community centre, homes and other spaces. We can take weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations and regularly celebrate communion at our Sunday services.

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