



Theatrical triumph: Dominic Conway, third from left with guitar, on stage in *Wolf Witch Giant Fairy*

Olivier glory for fabulous family show

By Mike Coles

The Olivier Awards are recognised internationally as the highest honour in British theatre, equivalent to the BAFTA Awards for film and television. Winning the Best Family Show this year was Little Bulb Theatre's production of *Wolf Witch Giant Fairy* at the Royal Opera House.

And picking up the award for Little Bulb was Dominic Conway, their music director, who grew up in East Finchley and attended Martin Primary and Fortismere schools.

During his teens Dominic formed The Bolsha Band, an ever-expanding group of musicians and singers, including the late Amy Winehouse, who played at East Finchley Festival several years in a row.

He studied Drama at Kent University and joined forces

with three other students to set up Little Bulb. In 2008, they took their first show, *Crocospia*, to the Edinburgh Fringe where it won a Fringe First for Best Graduate Show.

Wild show awarded

Wolf Witch Giant Fairy is described as a wild folk opera, drawing on traditional fairy stories and Italian and Balkan folk music. Its nomination for the Olivier Award for Best Family show came out of the blue and winning the award

was a huge surprise.

Dominic says: "As a devised production the show was created collaboratively by the entire cast and the wider creative team. We are all so pleased to have this recognition and we hope it will make it possible to tour the show around the country."

Dominic Conway lives in Somerset now, but on the night of the ceremony he took the Olivier Award back to East Finchley to stay with his parents who still live locally.

Secret oasis is open to everyone

East Finchley's newest green space is throwing open its gates to the public on the last Sunday of every month through the spring and summer.

The school garden at The Archer Academy, off Eagans Close, N2, was designed and created by a team of parents and volunteers from the wider community just a year ago.

Using funds from the Grange Big Local project, they built beds and pathways in a hidden space alongside the tube tracks close to Stanley Road. Volunteers come along every weekend for planting and general maintenance.

The garden is regularly used by academy students and now there is an open invitation for anyone to come along and enjoy the space on the last Sunday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Visitors can picnic on the lawned garden, take a seat in the woodland garden or just pass through to take a look. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Rachael Harvey, from the garden team, said: "The garden is flourishing and has become a



Paths of glory: The community garden at The Archer Academy is open to all once a month.

powerful new learning resource, which supports student well-being and provides opportunities for outside learning and connection with the natural world."

Plans this season include building toilet facilities and a

woodland cabin so students can use the garden throughout the year. Volunteers are always welcome to join the gardening team and carpenters especially are needed. Follow 'thearcher-garden' on Instagram.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:
May 2012

Barnet Council issued a formal consultation about its proposal for expansion of "outstanding" Martin Primary School from two to three-form entry, increasing the total number of pupils to 630. This was also the month when we reported that Arjun Mittra had been elected for the first time as a Labour councillor for East Finchley. Since then he has become a high profile representative of this ward and its residents.

15 years ago:
May 2007

Many older East Finchley residents will remember Dick and Jean Baker, the original owners of long-time local garage Bakers Autos. They retired in May 2007 after nearly 27 years in business, initially on part of the site now occupied by Mulberry Court and latterly in Lewis Gardens, where the current business still bears their name. Their reputation was such that one loyal customer who moved to Spain always had his car serviced by Bakers when he returned to the UK for visits.

25 years ago:
May 1997

We reported on the surprise election of Labour candidate Rudi Vis to the newly drawn constituency of Finchley and Golders Green. So unexpected was his victory in the general election that Rudi had not resigned from his position as a lecturer at the University of East London beforehand. He went on to represent the constituency for 13 years before standing down in advance of the 2010 election because of ill health. Sadly he died soon afterwards.

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

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 plan is to visit places of interest, including those used for worship. Organisers at the Barnet Multi Faith Forum 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 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 at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/east-finchley-faith-and-peace-walk-registration-271331328307. To volunteer as a steward on the day, or if you have any questions, email: faithwalk@barnetmultifaithforum.org or phone 07548 743245.



Sundays at 5pm
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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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