



Off the page: Monkey Puzzle staff dress as favourite characters on World Book Day

Dressing up brings story time to life for nursery children

The Three Little Pigs, in the shape of staff members Jenny, Aga and Mira, along with pantomime dame Mama G helped make World Book Day a lot of fun for youngsters at the Monkey Puzzle Nursery in East Finchley. Teacher Basma also read her own award-winning story and encouraged the children to write their own.



Animal friends: The Scouts hand over their fundraising cheque to the RSPCA

Scouts go on stage to help with animal care

Each year, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the 6th Friern Barnet Scout Group vote for the charity they want to support with the proceeds from their Christmas show and this year it was the RSPCA Finchley and District Branch who received a donation of £530.

Hannah Carson, of the RSPCA, said: "The Scout group arranged a lovely presentation for the giant cheque handover, which the chair of the RSPCA

Finchley branch was able to accept. A massive thank you to all those involved."

The money raised will be used to provide vaccinations, neutering, microchips, flea and worming medication and veterinary treatment to local animals in need. In addition, it will help support the charity's clinic scheme which offers reduced rate veterinary services to local people in receipt of certain benefits. For more information, contact the RSPCA Finchley Branch on 07928 628771.

Free concert on a Sunday

The next free Sunday evening concert at East Finchley Methodist Church features violinist Junko Ishigaki, viola player Ruth Cohen and pianist Caroline Soresby performing a programme of works by Mozart, Grieg and Rebecca Clarke.

It takes place at the church in the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, on Sunday 16 April at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a collection in aid of The Trussell Trust.

Children's book award winners

Publishing company Green Bean Books and Jewish Book Week have announced the winners of the second Jewish Children's Book Awards. The winner of the illustration prize is Rome-based Mel Zohar and the winner of the writing prize is London-based Dina Leifer. They each win a £1,000 award and a glass trophy.

Judge Michael Leventhal, an East Finchley resident, commented: "Mel Zohar's illustrations about an ever-growing challah are bright and exciting. She is an incredibly creative and original

talent. Dina Leifer's story *And Eddie Had An Egg* is a charming, witty and clever story about a boy who is a fussy eater but eventually gets one over his parents."

Mel Zohar, 32, said: "These images come from my personal family background and from my personal bond with the Jewish tradition and creating them was very emotionally involving for me."



Writing award: Author Dina Leifer

Dina Leifer, 56, said: "I am delighted. Winning this award has boosted my confidence to go on and write more Jewish stories for children."

The 2023-2024 competition seeking next year's winners will be launched this month. For more details visit www.greenbeanbooks.com or contact michael@greenhill-books.com



Big game: The CCF basketball in competition at the Royal Hospital School in Ipswich

Basketball players come away winners

The boys senior basketball team at Christ's College Finchley in East End Road, N2, has been having a strong season, including a journey to Ipswich to play against the Royal Hospital School.

The Royal Hospital School is an independent boarding and day school with a unique naval heritage. Founded in 1712 in Greenwich, London, it moved to its spectacular site, set in 200 acres of Suffolk countryside overlooking the River Stour, in 1933.

Spectacular game

The basketball game was as spectacular as the school site, and was watched by a large crowd of teachers and pupils.

CCF produced one of their best performances of the season, coming away 90-70 winners, although the game was much closer than the final margin suggests.

Despite the four-hour round trip, the CCF team thoroughly enjoyed their visit to one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the country and are hoping it will become a regular fixture on the calendar for years to come.