



Everybody needs good neighbours in 10K run



Pace yourselves: The Race the Neighbours runners set off in Cherry Tree Wood, left. The first man to arrive back is Matthew Wheat, centre, and the first woman home is Gillian Hughes, right. Photos Mike Coles

Piano player keeps up the keyboard connection

By John Lawrence



Practice makes perfect: Pianist Gavin at the grand piano donated by Richard King

The very popular series of free Sunday evening concerts at East Finchley Methodist Church continues this month with performances by five young people with a clear musical connection to N2.

The first half of the concert on Sunday 9 July will feature cellist Sophia, flautist Bella, trombonist Kaelan and singer-songwriter Naomi, all from the Ark Pioneer Academy in Barnet.

The second half will feature pianist Gavin, who will perform works by Mozart, Chopin, Ravel and Gershwin, on the church's recently restored Bechstein

grand piano.

The music students at the Academy have a connection with East Finchley because the church's former organist Richard King donated his own grand piano to the school, after searching for a suitable home for it. Students at Ark Pioneer receive class music lessons every week and almost one in

four of them learns to play a musical instrument.

East Finchley Methodist's free concerts have been running for years and continue to be well-supported, always inviting donations to a chosen charity. For the students' concert on Sunday 9 July at 7.30pm, any money raised will go to The London Music Fund.

Hundreds of runners set off from Cherry Tree Wood in warm conditions when the annual Race the Neighbours event returned on Sunday 4 June, pitching amateur athletes from East Finchley, Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace against each other in a needle match with a distinctly friendly feel.

The 10km route sent almost 500 runners partly on pavements and partly through parkland to Ally Pally and back in pursuit of personal bests and the Cherry Tree Cup, awarded to the postcode with the best average time. This year that honour went to N2, who have now won it four times. N6 were second, followed by N10 and N22. The fastest male runner was Matthew Wheat, running for N6 Highgate, who finished in 36mins 05secs, and the fastest female runner was Gillian Hughes, running for N10 Muswell Hill in 43mins 50secs. But there was a warm welcome home for every runner who crossed the finishing line, thanks to the enthusiastic Race the Neighbours hosts and friends and family among the many spectators.

Town Team looks ahead

By Diana Cormack

A meeting of East Finchley Town Team (EFTT) on Thursday 15 June, hosted by the Windsor Castle pub in Church Lane, N2, welcomed the following organisations: EF Community Trust, the Phoenix Cinema, East Finchley Neighbourhood Support CIC and East Finchley Open Artists.

Past and future events based on the three main aims of the team for the High Road were discussed; these being to encourage footfall on the High Road, to campaign for environmental improvements and to facilitate connections between traders, businesses and the local community including beyond the High Road.

Imminent was the London Festival of Architecture event, held two days later on the wide pavement outside Iceland and Budgens. With EFTT aiming to improve this much-used location, this was an opportunity to get people's views on transforming what is regarded as the heart of East Finchley.

Future High Road events could reflect past successes. Some residents have already

expressed their views on those events previously organised by the team which they would like to see repeated, the front runner being the successful East Finchley's Got Talent, which took place in The Phoenix Cinema.

Contact or come for a chat

What would you like to see happening here? Everyone is welcome to put forward suggestions or add to the discussions. You can keep up to date with the Town Team's plans at www.ILoveN2.co.uk/town-team or email eftownteam@gmail.com.

Otherwise you could make your way to East Finchley Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2, on Thursday 13 July where you can join in the chat at an informal social evening from 7pm onwards.