



Happy feet: Dancers enjoy the fitness workout at the first Dance for Ukraine event

A second chance to dance your socks off in support of Ukraine

By Lynn Winton

After the huge success of the first Dance for Ukraine event last December, which raised £4,000, the team supporting local organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine have announced another community dance event.

Instructor Gemma Barlow of GemmaB Fitness has brought together a team of top dance instructors making their way from all parts of the UK, volunteering their time and energy to create a fun two-hour dance session, followed by a Pilates-based cool down and stretch.

The dancing will be suitable for all ages and complete novices as well as those who attend fitness dance classes. All you need are leggings, trainers and a t-shirt, and a bottle of water.

One of last year's participants told *The Archer*: "It was an exhilarating experience. The dance instructors up on stage were all so charismatic and inclusive that we all joined

in with great enthusiasm right from the first song. Everyone had huge smiles throughout and there was a real sense of coming together to help Ukraine."

Donations and booking

The suggested donation is £20 (£10 for accompanied children aged eight to 16) and 100% of the donated amount goes straight to drivingaidtoukraine.org to fund their next trip driving essential supplies to devastated areas of Ukraine. The Muswell Hill Club gym has donated a free spa all-day pass to all those who attend or donate.

The dance event takes place on Saturday 13 May from 11am to 1pm at Fortismere School's South Hall on Tetherdown.



Booking is essential. The QR code printed here will take you to a secure payment page and you will receive an email confirmation. Or search 'Dance for Ukraine' on the crowdfunder.co.uk website. Any queries can be sent to gemmabfitness@hotmail.com or call Lynn on 07973 432086.

Scarecrows damaged in meadow

By Ann Bronkhorst

Question: when does a field become a meadow? Answer: when the soil is rotavated, wild flowers are planted, the grass grows back but it's mixed with flowers and then the bees and butterflies arrive.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields used to dream of making a small part of the playing fields (also in the Friends' remit) into a wild-flower meadow. Thanks to Haringey Council's support the dream is coming true.

Scarecrows

In the April edition of *The Archer* Laura Fox reported on this first stage of the borough-wide Meadows Pilot Project. She noted the enthusiasm of local children who sowed flower seeds and made tall scarecrows to help protect the tiny plants.

Sadly, the scarecrows themselves needed protection as they were soon vandalised, by

humans, not birds. The wild flower plants have persevered in spite of some fierce weather and lively dogs.

Playground

At the northern end of the fields is a children's playground but some of the play equipment needs maintenance, repair or replacement. John Hajdu from Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association and the Friends called this to Haringey's attention and have been assured that the broken equipment will be fixed.

Walks

The programme of events in Coldfall Wood for this year began with a Photography Walk on 16 April. A few more dates are fixed, includ-

ing drawing in the woods on Sunday 11 June, a geology tour on Sunday 16 September and an autumn plant walk on Sunday 1 October.

Bat walks, and activities especially for children, are being planned too, so keep checking the website for booking details and updates on all these events: coldfallwoods.co.uk

30 Local News is our Aim
30 years 1993-2023

Psst... have you heard the news?

The Archer is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year by printing memorable articles and columns from our archives at www.the-archer.co.uk. A popular contribution in our early years was the Out and About column, compiled by the late Noel Lynch, who was active in local community projects and political circles, and who ran The Bargain Centre on the High Road, close to where Alan's Records is still trading. Here's Noel's round-up of the news he'd heard along with some odd observations from our edition in April 1997.

Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Bravo Mrs Patell

Mrs Patell of Vin Wines, Long Lane, had a frightening experience recently. Some youths, with a gun, tried to "hold-up" her shop. At first she thought that it was a joke, but when she realised that they were serious, she chased them from the shop with a metal spike! What kind of society do we now have?

Fly-posting

Readers may notice the reduction of fly-posting in the area. This is a result of the Council/Traders "Walk-round" in January. We pointed out the "black spots" and the Council officials promised action.

Beware

There is a rash of pick-pocketing going on in East Finchley just now.

New Shop

The former "Bargain Finders" shop has been opened under new management. As a Futon/Bedsettee/Cushion shop. It's always good to see new shops opening and we wish Mitesh and his staff many years of happy trading in East Finchley.

Water

The contamination in drinking water is causing consternation in East Finchley. We believe that there have been scores of cases across Barnet, and seeing that it can take about a week to take effect, many people are worried and angry about the situation.

Another publication!

The Archer is not the only title published in East Finchley. The other is "Nursing Notes" a newspaper for midwives at No 120 The High Road.

Another new shop

The former "Ruffles" shop is now "Pinewood Antique Studios". John and Maureen are very pleased with business so far. As a neighbour, I'm also pleased, as the extra "Collectors" shop, is pulling in more customers to the area. People have commented that our parade now "looks like a mini Portobello".

Where's Strawberry Vale?

Has anybody noticed the new road sign outside Strawberry Vale, pointing south stating "East Finchley 1 mile"?

Credit Union

On March 19th a public meeting was held at the scout hut, New Trinity Road, to start a Credit Union. Barry Epstein of the Association of British Credit Unions, was the main speaker. A steering committee will now be formed. Anybody interested can contact me at the address below.

Too true!

Slogan seen on a shop window "Buy now while shops last".

Any news

If you have anything of news value suitable for this column, contact Noel at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, East Finchley,

Free concert for the natural world

The next free Sunday evening concert at East Finchley Methodist Church will be a programme called 'Our Natural World', with flautist Hugh Evans, pianist Nick Reading and mezzo soprano Viola da Cunha. Admission is free with a collection in aid of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The concert takes place on Sunday 14 May at 7.30pm at the church in the High Road, N2, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue. The venue is fully accessible.