



Hardy tennis players weather the storm

By Diana Cormack

On Sunday 20 October, despite the arrival of Storm Ashley, members of the Fortis Green Tennis Club managed to carry on with their 'Wear It Pink' mixed doubles tournament in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

Organised by club coach Angie Dean, all four courts were in use for as much time as possible in the wind and rain, with players dressed in pink.

Inside the clubhouse there were fundraising activities such as a sweepstake game, guessing the number of calls the charity's nurses responded

to in a year and guessing the weight of a cake.

All sorts of delicious cakes were available to accompany cups of tea and coffee while avoiding the worst of the weather. Along with their Just Giving page, the club members succeeded in raising a grand total of £735.



Game on: The Fortis Green Tennis Club players at the fundraiser

Coffee and cakes raise cash for charity

By Diana Cormack

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning takes place every year, run by Macmillan Cancer Support, with people all over the UK being invited to host and attend coffee mornings.

Since they started in 1990, these gatherings have raised over £310 million for the charity.

Amongst the East Finchley residents contributing to this year's collection in September were Archer deliverers Gail Norcliffe and Barrie Brown of Church Lane, who welcomed a crowd of friends into their home on a particularly wet and dismal day.

Mugs of coffee and tea were much appreciated, but even more so was the amount and variety of home-baked cakes awaiting. These have become a feature of the coffee mornings over the years and Gail and her

baking friends kept up the tradition admirably. There were a few cakes left at the end but they soon disappeared as Gail had provided plenty of boxes to carry them off in.

Macmillan supplied a kit for the event from which guests were able to enter a couple of competitions, one involving a quiz all about cakes and another a guess about coffee cups. There were also donation boxes which, when coupled with their JustGiving page, revealed that the couple had raised a grand total of £1,080! Well done to these hosts and to any other fundraisers for this event in the locality.



Top table: Cakes await buyers at the coffee morning



Young reporters: Year 7 journalists get ready to interview at the Archer Academy prize giving event. Photo Katie Ruback

Life advice for academy students

By Josephine and Roxana, Year 7

Just before our first half term here at the Archer Academy, we attended the Prize Giving event. This is a yearly tradition at school where students are celebrated for their achievements. The awards evening took place in our sports hall where there was a large gathering of students, parents, staff and special guests.

We congratulated all hard-working students from the past year, whether it was for subjects, effort, or respecting the values of the 'Archer Way'. We were the first ever Archer Year 7 students to join the older students at the event and we were very proud to share this wonderful experience.

We interviewed parents, students and special guests to find out how they felt, and how we could work towards achieving an award in the future. A Year 10 prize winner told us: "Pay attention in class, work hard in

and out of school, and believe in yourself."

We also interviewed guest speaker Laura Coryton MBE, who successfully lobbied Parliament to remove the 'tampon tax' in 2021. Laura said: "At the beginning of my campaign, the things that motivated me the most were knowing that I could make a difference and being able to inspire young people. I always tell people to be creative, have fun, and most of all talk about what you are most passionate about."

Help needed for 10k race

North London Hospice is appealing for volunteers to help make the first-ever winter edition of Race the Neighbours a success.

As we reported last month, the hospice is running a February version of the friendly 10k challenge to join its regular date in June or July. Hundreds of amateur athletes from East Finchley, Highgate, Muswell Hill and nearby postcodes will compete for the Cherry Tree Cup.

Volunteer roles on offer include helping at the start of the race in Cherry Tree Wood as well as being one of the marshals along the route, which passes through Woodside Avenue, Alexandra Palace and around Highgate Wood before returning to Cherry Tree Wood. Around 50-60 helpers are needed. If you are interested, email racetheneighbours@northlondonhospice.co.uk.

If you'd rather join the runners, places are strictly limited so register to secure your spot. All runners must be 16+ to take part. Entries close at midday on Friday 24 January 2025. You can sign up at www.letsdothis.com by searching 'Race the Neighbours Winter Edition'.

The Archer on the move

The Archer's website is now easier to use on your mobile phone. Our online pages have been redesigned to make it quicker to find important information like contact details and deadlines, and simpler to read our latest edition or search and browse past editions of the newspaper in our archive stretching back to 1993.

So now you really can take The Archer with you wherever you go. Bookmark our website at www.the-archer.co.uk

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