



Tidy time: Coldfall Primary pupils make the Wood a cleaner place

Coldfall kids clean up the woods

By Megan Greene

A group of 20 children, parents and staff from Coldfall Primary met one Wednesday afternoon last month to clean up Coldfall Wood, the ancient woodland at the back of their school, to which they have direct access.

It was the second community litter pick of the woods that the school has organised, with support from Friends of Coldfall Wood, and they plan to make it a regular event. Children at the litter pick said they were picking up litter "to save the animals" as otherwise it could endanger wildlife or end up in the ocean. "Someone left a whole McDonalds meal behind!" said one astonished mum.

Church friends on Franciscan trail

By Helen Tierney

It was a chilly 3am start for a group of parishioners from St Mary's Church in East Finchley for our four-day pilgrimage to the hilltop town of Assisi in central Italy.

Led by parish priest Father Peter Scott, we visited many of the churches associated with Saint Francis including the famous Basilica with its fres-

coes by Gothic painter Giotto, San Damiano, and San Rufino and mass was said for the group each day.

Assisi is also the resting

place of Saint Clare and more recently Westminster-born Carlo Acutis and the itinerary took time to visit their associated shrines in this ancient and beautiful walled medieval town, set high up in the Umbrian countryside where the air is mountain fresh.

The trip coincided with Italy's Liberation Day bank holiday and we were joined at the hotel by a lively Sicilian group who led the toasts over dinner as well as serenading birthday girl Regina, one of the East Finchley pilgrims. The return to Stansted seemed just as unwelcomingly cold as when we left it but we all agreed that we were enriched by the trip, spiritually, culturally and gastronomically. And Father Peter's verdict? "Wonderful!"



Tall tale: The cast of Theatre in the Square's latest production

Chicken and Bacon

Local community group Theatre in the Square will be performing their original, devised production of Francis Bacon and the Ghost Chicken of Highgate at the Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, from 17-20 July at 7.30pm.

It's 1974: Anne and Gilbert are courting in Pond Square when they are surprised by a glowing, ghostly chicken, distressed and half-plucked. Fleeing into a nearby pub, they're surprised to learn from the locals that the ectoplasmic fowl has been seen before in Highgate. But what is its mysterious link to long-dead philosopher Francis Bacon?

Theatre in the Square is

an East Finchley based community theatre group with its origins in Highgate. The group has been producing plays in and around London and at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall since 1967. They've been working on researching the astonishing history behind this latest production since April. Tickets are available now from ticketsource.co.uk/theatreinthesquare

Free concert

The Barnet Youth Wind Ensemble and the Barnet Youth Jazz Ensemble will join forces to play a lively programme of music "with something for everyone" at East Finchley Methodist Church in the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue, on Sunday 14 July at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Barnet Education Arts Trust.

Harness your life's experiences for the good of others

By Lynn Winton

East Finchley's Maurice Collins is an entrepreneur, collector, author and founder of national charity Kith and Kids. He started out as an apprentice printer in Pages Lane, Muswell Hill, and he went on to own multiple businesses. All of which proves he is one of those interesting people who is never short of an idea or seven. His latest one, due to launch in the autumn, could involve you too.

Named Prime Thinkers, the aim is to harness retired people to form a group who will brainstorm local problems, using their own life experience and problem-solving abilities to help others, whether it be a business, organisation or charity. The list of possibilities is endless.

I spoke to Maurice about who he would like to recruit. "Well, it might be someone with professional skills or life skills, like a solicitor or accountant, someone creative, and someone who is always looking for a challenge," he said. "We can create a team combining all our skills and natural abilities and there is no end to who could approach us for this free service. I have already had two requests from people who would love some help with growing their local businesses as well as a cartoonist. So we help the community whilst keeping our own brains firing up."

There must be many retired people in East Finchley who would love to join this inclusive group where all ideas are valid, as sometimes the most outlandish ones can become a really good



Business ideas: Maurice Collins takes a break in Amici's Delicatessen.

one if they spark a discussion.

Maurice would love to hear from anyone wishing to get involved. He plans monthly two-hour meetings for around 10 participants. You can contact him in the first instance and he will take it from there. His partner is U3A Hampstead Garden Suburb so your only expense would be joining that group, if you are not a member already. The annual fee is currently £37 which entitles you to also try all the other free unlimited courses. Contact Maurice at mauricecollins@msn.com.

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Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
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Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315
Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
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