



Laugh a minute: Comedians Ria Lina and, right, Ian Stone, entertain the packed audience at The Archer Academy. Photos Mike Coles

Comedy night raises the roof for new arts space

By Justine Csaky

It was a laugh a minute at Archer Academy's comedy night **Raise the Roof** on Monday 29 April. The school sports hall was transformed into a first-class comedy venue for the evening and top stand-up comedians Ria Lina, Finlay Christie and Ninia Benjamin, as well as fantastic compère Ian Stone, and DJ Pat Leacock entertained the audience at the sold-out event.

Whilst having fun was the main focus of the night, the event also raised close to £10,000 for the school's Raise The Roof campaign to build a

new dance, drama and music studio at the Lower School on Eagans Close, N2.

This will provide a much-needed rehearsal space for

students. Despite these subjects being in decline in UK schools, creative and performing arts are a big part of Archer Academy's life, and the school has enjoyed success in a variety of competitions and festivals across the years.

The new studio will also benefit the wider local com-

munity as a venue to be hired outside school hours. The school has raised £280,000 so far, but still needs to secure a further £170,000 before building can commence. You can make a donation via the school

website thearcheracademy.org.uk where you can also watch the campaign film, or get in touch with the school if you are able to help in any other way by emailing office@thearcheracademy.org.uk

Mutant daisy found

By Maria Georgiou

We were walking home from Martin Primary School and at the little green space on New Oak Road, N2, my daughter Andriani called to me that she had found something strange. The daisy she found was about five times the size of a normal daisy with a double and thick ribbon-like stem and elongated middle.



Power flower. Andriani and Therapon with their over-sized and normal size daisies

There were actually two daisies, one which she picked and one which she left in the park. Funnily enough my son Therapon spotted a double-headed dandelion also with a thick ribbon-like stem the very next day on Long Lane, very close to where we found the mutant daisy.

An internet search showed us that the uncommon phenomenon is known as fasciation or cresting. It can be caused by hormonal imbalances in the plant, due to random genetic mutation, bacterial infection or exposure to chemicals. It was so bizarre that both kids found mutant flowers within a day of each other.

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From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: June 2014

A statue dedicated to the Kinks was unveiled at the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green, N2, in the presence of drummer Mick Avery and guitarist John Dalton. Founder members of the group, Ray and Dave Davies were born in Denmark Terrace, opposite the pub and held their first gig there. The Kinks Room at the Clissold is full of memorabilia of the group.

15 years ago: June 2009

East Finchley was visited by the Westminster Morris Men, who toured the area performing outside local pubs. The team had a change from their usual tour of Highgate and entertained locals with their Cotswold Morris style, involving the use of sticks and handkerchiefs. Musical accompaniment was provided by their two melodeon players.

23 years ago: June 2001

Local poet Diana Bishop, who then lived in Park Hall Road, N2, was appointed poet in residence at Keats House in Hampstead for six months. To get the post she had to submit a sample of her poetry and attend an interview. During her tenure Diana led a series of workshops and creative writing classes.



Emotional support: Members of the Barnet Bereavement Service ready to welcome new trustees

Could you be a charity trustee?

By Lynn Winton

If you have considered using your skills to help shape the running and future of a charity, then the long-established Barnet Bereavement Service would like to hear from you, as they are keen to appoint new trustees for their next period of development. They offer bereavement counselling to adults living in Barnet.

Trustee Liz Illman said: "We have 16 valued volunteer counsellors who see around 35 clients each week, and some paid managerial support. All of us will experience loss and for some it will be hard to see a way ahead after the death of a loved one.

"We are looking for new trustees, and welcome applications from those with experi-

ence or those taking their first steps into a charitable governance role. Trustees bring skills, experiences and perspectives that are all so valuable in our work."

If you would like to know more, get in touch with Sarah Patterson by email at sarah.patterson@barnetbereavement-service.org.uk or telephone 020 8368 8880.

<p>Wednesdays Mornings 9.30am & 12pm (Noon)</p>	 <p>touching hearts, changing lives</p>	<p>Wednesdays Evenings 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm</p>
 <p>Call/text Suzy 07980 032836</p>	<p>East Finchley</p> <p>Lose weight eating the foods you love</p> <p>Every Wednesday East Finchley Methodist Church www.slimmingworld.co.uk</p>	 <p>Call/text Frankie 07769 032419</p>