



Two venues help raise funds for Emily's vital treatment abroad

By Zalan Pall

The Phoenix Cinema and the Clissold Arms pub in East Finchley were at the centre of a special event to raise funds for a 24-year-old woman who urgently needs medical treatment abroad.

Emily suffers from the little-understood Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a rare genetic disorder affecting the body's connective tissues, that results in chronic pain, severe fatigue and neurological issues. Treatment is only available overseas.

The event on Sunday 12 May started off at the Phoenix with a special screening of the director's cut of 2001 cult classic *Donnie Darko*, and ended at the Clissold Arms for some drinks, a raffle and an important opportunity to learn more about the cause from Emily herself.

Emily said she was really moved by the sup-



Fundraiser: Emily needs medical treatment

port shown and was grateful for the generosity of those who attended and donated. However, her target is not yet met. If you would like to learn more, or make a donation visit www.helpemily.live



Spread the word: Emmy West and Katy Hodges from the N2 Mums Speak group

N2 mums spread the word on community mothering

By Alys Wainwright

Three years ago, East Finchley friends Katy Hodges and Emmy West created a group where local mums could connect with each other and share their experiences of motherhood. They used a community grant from the Grange Big Local project to set up a private space in Barnwood, off Tarling Road, N2, where mums could meet and talk about the highs and lows of parenting.

So successful has their N2 Mums Speak group been that earlier this year the pair were invited to share their story at an academic conference at the University of Warwick. They told attendees that their aim was to make mums experts on their own lives, not to bring outside experts in to talk, and that they wanted to include women from all parts of the community, including the most deprived.

Katy said: "When we applied for the grant together, as friends who had supported each other

when we had our first babies and who had met through a local sling library, we just thought about the impact that the temporary closure of playgroups and playgrounds during the pandemic would have on people, particularly new mums.

"We thought others might feel the same way, and may want to share their motherhood stories in a supportive space, and that turned out to be the case. We never expected that our idea would lead to us presenting at an academic conference. It shows

the lasting impact that a community grant can have."

Emmy said: "We hope our sessions provided an opportunity for mums to feel heard and supported. I'm so grateful to Leo Smith and the lovely space that is Barnwood, GBL, and all the women who came together to support each other and who were brave enough to be open about all the feelings motherhood brings, good and painful." For more details about the project, email N2MumsSpeak@gmail.com.



Forward a bit, back a bit: The hapless bus tries to negotiate the tight T-junction

Too tight to turn

Thanks to reader Matthew Hales for this photo of a coach that took a wrong turn and ended up well and truly stuck. The driver had mistakenly left the High Road, N2, and come down Bedford Road before getting wedged between parked cars as he tried to turn into Durham Road in the late afternoon of Tuesday 14 May. Luckily, helpful neighbours were on hand to move one of the cars, giving the coach just enough room to manoeuvre before returning back up Bedford Road.

School shortlisted in education 'Oscars'

The Archer Academy in East Finchley has been shortlisted twice in the Tes Schools Awards 2024 for Excellence in Creative Arts, and Staff Wellbeing School of the Year. The prestigious awards programme, dubbed the 'Oscars of education', celebrates the best of education across the UK.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: "As a school we have worked hard to secure our incredible reputation for our commitment to the visual and performing arts. This commitment is seen in not only our GCSE results, but also in the number of students studying

arts-based subjects, as well as our prominence and success at prestigious competitions."

Regarding the 'Staff Wellbeing School of the Year' nomination, she went on to say: "Staff are the most precious resource within a school, they are there to educate, care and inspire young people. I am delighted that our innovative and thoughtful approaches to wellbeing have been recognised."

Winners will be announced on Friday 21 June at a gala awards night at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, in central London.

Free concert

The next in the monthly series of free concerts at East Finchley Methodist Church will feature the Woodside Ensemble of violin, viola, clarinet, cello and piano playing works by Mozart and Crusell. It takes place on Sunday 9 June at 7.30pm at the High Road church, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue. Admission is free with a collection in aid of Freedom from Torture.

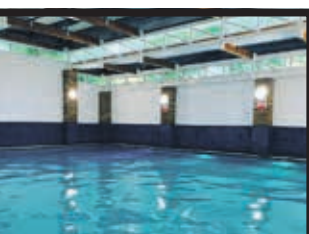


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