



Civic awards for 40 years service to East Finchley

By Ruth Anders

It would be hard to find two people who have given more to the community than long-term East Finchley residents Roger Chapman and his wife Kate Brown. At the recent annual Barnet Civic Awards ceremony at Hendon Town Hall, Roger was given an award for lifetime achievement while Kate was awarded a Certificate Scroll of Recognition for outstanding service in the community.



Community champions: Kate Brown and Roger Chapman at the Civic Awards ceremony

The impact of their dedication to the community over more than 40 years and the initiatives with which they have been involved are too numerous and varied to list.

One of Kate's earliest ventures was joining the campaign to save Edgware General Hospital. An early joint effort in 1982 was the Barnet Campaign to Defend Public Transport. The 1987 North Circular Road campaign marked the start of the pair's green planting mitigations, which they have pursued ever since. Kate has even undertaken an RHS horticulture course at Capel Manor to develop her gardening skills.

In 2019 Roger established and continues to chair the Barnet Green Spaces Network of 58 Friends groups across the borough. Ongoing joint

commitments include the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley Community Trust, Martin Primary's Forest School, East Finchley Town Team, the local Pollinator Project and more.

Busy lives

Arriving in London as a student nurse, Kate came from Wales, where she didn't speak English until she was five. Roger's career as a town planner saw him start with 'A' Level entry at Norwich City Council. He soon moved to London, meeting Kate at Crouch End's King's Head pub in 1982.

Of his professional role he says: "I've moved round more London boroughs than I've had hot dinners. I retired some time ago when work began to interfere with my community activities."

Apart from their grandchildren, other hobbies include gardening, leading local history walks and helping to run battlefield tours (Roger), and serious walking. Their most recent hiking expedition was Peddars Way (Thetford to the Norfolk coast), while others have included Hadrian's Wall, the Lake District and Glyndwr's Way in Wales.

The couple show no sign of winding down and The Archer has no doubt that East Finchley will continue to benefit from their endeavours for some time to come.



Perfect poise: Kenwood staff hang the Sargent portraits for the summer exhibition

Review: Heiress: Sargent's American Portraits – The Real Lives of America's Dollar Princesses

Kenwood, Hampstead, until Sunday 5 October

Review by Ann-Stephenson Wright

To mark the centenary of the death of John Singer Sargent, 18 of his stunning portraits of American heiresses have been brought together for the first time by English Heritage at Kenwood in a revelatory exhibition which explores the real lives of the women portrayed.

The exhibition focuses on a small group of the more-than-400 wealthy American women who married into the British aristocracy at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century and were painted by Sargent, the leading portrait painter of his generation.

Born in 1856, Sargent had had great success from a young age and was celebrated for portraits that captured both the likeness and personality of his subjects. Famous for his dazzling technical skill in conveying light and texture, he painted prominent figures,

socialites, aristocrats and politicians from both the American and European elite.

The glamorous subjects of this exhibition were the celebrities of the day and they are vividly brought to life in luscious oil paintings and delicate charcoal sketches, several of which have never before been on public display.

The sketches, drawn by Sargent for pleasure and friendship, are far less well-known and more rarely shown than the commissioned oil paintings and it is fascinating to see these hung together in elegant rooms of a

type which would have been the backdrop to the new lives these women were crossing the Atlantic to embark on.

Painted in their twenties and after marriage, the women were disparagingly dubbed 'dollar princesses' by critics of the transatlantic marriage 'trade' but the persistent 'cash-for-coronets' stereotype is roundly challenged in this rare, not-to-be-missed exhibition which highlights the wide-ranging achievements of these diverse, fascinating and extraordinary women so brilliantly portrayed by Sargent.

Tennis club special offer

By Stelios Pavlides

As reported in The Archer in April, an application for development of the Fortis Green Tennis Club's site off Southern Road has been refused by Haringey Council. The club facilities continue, therefore, to be available to the local community.

The club has very attractive grounds, four clay courts and a welcoming atmosphere for people of all ages and levels.

A new coach started work this season and there is an extensive programme for both adults and juniors, open to members and non-members. The club is making an effort to extend its reach and there is a special offer to join for only £50 (normal annual fee £170).

Terms: (a) you should have never been a club member before (b) offer open till end of



June 2025 (c) offer price applies for first year of membership. To take advantage please contact Liz on lizhanchet@gmail.com or send the club a message from its website at clubspark.lta.org.uk/fortisgreentennisclub

Boxes of fun at toy library

By Lauren Fleishman

A new toy library has been set up for parents and carers at Martin Primary School to browse, borrow and have some fun. With the support of The TOY Project, there is a collection of indoor and outdoor toys such as puzzle games, yarn art, flashcards and magnetic blackboards.

Toys are suitable for children from Reception through to Year Six. Headteacher Ziz Chater said: "The new toy library is a great initiative and will give all our families access to a wider range of toys aimed at supporting cognitive, social, and emotional development."

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