



Prime thinkers set cartoonist on new path

By Lynn Winton

When East Finchley serial entrepreneur Maurice Collins had the idea to harness a team of local seniors to give free expert business guidance (The Archer, July 2024), his first 'client' was an unusual one.

Prolific cartoonist Neil Kerber, who lives in Barnet, has a regular weekly cartoon in Private Eye, and has been published in virtually every national newspaper. He had just put together a new book called Rhymefulness: The Cartoony Rhyming Guide to Happiness Inside which was doing well, but he didn't know what to do next.

"At the first Prime Thinkers meeting some fantastic ideas came out, including a suggestion that a version for younger readers would be a natural progression," Neil explained. Being a dad to two teenage girls I took their advice and went on to create Rhymefulness for Amazing Kids.

"It's something I'm very proud of, and I think can add enormous value to the younger generation in these stressful and complex times. It's getting a really great reaction so far ...even from my own kids who usually don't like to rave about my 'silly job'.



Good idea: Neil Kerber

"I have found Prime Thinkers to be a fantastic way of bringing experienced and helpful minds together. I believe lots of people will benefit from telling their story, and listening to this fantastic group of people."

Neil's books are available at Amazon. If you would like to join the Prime Thinkers team or seek their advice, contact **Maurice Collins on 07796 991140.**



Top-level tuition: Itamar Rashkovsky, right, gives a lesson to a young student

A new kind of conservatoire

By John Lawrence

A professional violin teacher is setting up a new kind of conservatoire-level music school that he hopes will attract students from across north London.

Itamar Rashkovsky, who lives in Neale Close, N2, trained at the Royal College of Music and is now a teacher at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

His new venture is called the Miriam School of Music and is

aimed primarily at young music students who may prefer classes on a Sunday with a curriculum that focuses on Jewish music and culture.

There will be a Sunday programme over three weekends in June in partnership with the JW3 centre in Finchley Road, teaching musicianship through interactive workshops and group lessons. The school also offers one-to-one lessons any time during the week at a student's or teacher's home.

Itamar said: "I want to unlock the potential in the

Jewish community. There's a history of music and we want that to be as successful in the next generation and nurture it through the next generation."

"We are aiming at children and young people but there are no real boundaries. One idea we have is to run group sessions with parents included. That's something I would love to do if there is demand."

Tuition is available for piano, violin, clarinet, harp and voice, plus music theory. Find out more at www.mirimusic.com

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Summer brightness for roadside trees

By Gail Norcliffe

The young chitalpa trees at the end of Church Lane, N2, have been made even brighter with an array of beautiful begonias. Residents Caroline and David Broome came up with the roadside planting idea and it has been warmly welcomed and well supported by neighbours, many of whom chipped in to help with the costs.



Summer display: Caroline Broome plants the begonias in Church Lane

Each of the five trees between East End Road and Holy Trinity Church has its own colour of begonias, ranging

from bright red to salmon pink to lemon. Begonias are a perfect choice because they cope well with both with drought and a lot of rain, do not need dead-heading and keep flowering until October.

Caroline has been delighted with the response to the flowers. "Apart from increasing the greenery on the lane, the flowers provide pollen and are good for the bees," she said. "I also think by smartening up the pavement, it brings the community together and encourages everyone to treat the neighbourhood better, for example by taking more care not to drop litter.

It would be fantastic if others in East Finchley consider doing the same in their own streets."