



Place to gather: Face-painting was just one of the fun attractions as the first Round the Square event in the High Road. Photos Mike Coles

## Entertainment in the square

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley Town Team's 'Round the Square' celebration took place on Saturday 2 May, marking the start of plans for a new performance and event space on the High Road, N2.

An impressive number of people turned up to be entertained for two hours by local dancers, instrumentalists and singers. The youngest were dancers from the Fixation Academy, who also ran a glitter bar for children, followed by guitarist Dayvid singing mostly

60s and 70s classics. Folk singer Maggie played the penny whistle and sang a song she wrote about Horace White, a much-missed East Finchley character. His call 'The best of luck' was echoed by the audience led by Maggie's son Jake.

Then starting with 'Make

your own kind of music' the Archer Community Choir impressed with three songs to round off the afternoon's entertainment.

Ice creams at half price were offered by Budgens throughout the programme. They also provided ladders and plants for

the flower bed outside. Amy's kindly provided electrical facilities. The proposed town square will use the pavement area between these two stores, where work has recently started with the removal of a shrubby bed and some of the plants being re-sited.

People were invited to find out more about plans for the High Road at the event. They were also able to sign a petition asking Barnet Council to work with the community to deliver a greener, better town square for East Finchley. You can sign it yourself by using this link: <https://c.org/2QbctgnDPd>

## Hindu community helps the hospice

By Sangita Thakkar

A vibrant and heartwarming community walk on Friday 10 April brought people of all ages together in support of North London Hospice, celebrating compassion, unity, and the spirit of giving back.

Together, participants raised an incredible £2,500 for the charity. The walk set off from Victoria Park in N3 and there were over 100 participants from all ages.

Participants from Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS UK) Finchley and Depala communities gathered with enthusiasm and purpose, walking side-by-side to make a meaningful difference. Adding to the uplifting atmosphere, Kiya Popatiya, one of the youth leaders from HSS UK, led the group in the chant "Sanghathan mein shakti hai" which means "in unity lies strength". A special thanks to Finchley Victoria Bowling and Croquet Club for allowing us to use their facilities to host the event.



En route: Walkers enjoying their pavement trek

## Heard the buzz about pollinator pathways?

By Roger Chapman, East Finchley Community Trust

Buzz along to East Finchley's town square outside Amy's and Budgens early next month to hear about a new project aiming to reconnect people, green spaces and local history by telling stories of Finchley's wonderful community gardens.

Created by the East Finchley Community Trust and Finchley Pollinators, it's called 'Light and Flight: Pollinators, pathways and the historic walks of Finchley'.

On Saturday 4 July from 11am to 2pm in the town square on East Finchley High Road, the Finchley Pollinators will use the inspiration of the community gardens to share with you simple ways you can enrich your own spaces to better support our essential pollinators.

Could you improve local biodiversity by planting your own mini 'buzz stop' full of pollinator friendly flowers and herbs for bees and butterflies, or create a hoverfly lagoon or bee hotel?

Come along to learn more through interactive discussions, practical demonstrations and free hands-on activities for children and their families, so

that together we can ensure that the historic green corridors of the past can be replicated as

highways for pollinators and other local wildlife today and for the future.



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