



City farm to be reopened to the public

By David Melsome

College Farm in Finchley, which welcomed family and school visits until it was forced to close 25 years ago, could soon be open to the public again.



Future restored: College Farm is set to reopen to the public if refurbishment works are approved. Photo The Barnet Society

A new board of trustees has entered an agreement with a charitable foundation focused on food sustainability to secure funding for the restoration of the farm's Grade II listed buildings, which have fallen into disrepair, and to reopen the land as a visitor attraction.

The site on Regents Park Road, the only farm in Finchley, was first established in the 1880s and continued operating as a dairy until the 1970s. Generations of residents will remember cows grazing on the grassland alongside the road.

The farm was then leased by Chris and Jane Ower, who opened it to visitors in 1980 until being forced to close it by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2001. In the years since they have operated it as a pet food and equestrian store, also selling Christmas trees in season.

College Farm Trust's new board is comprised of local residents and includes Finchley and Golders Green MP Mike Freer and Chairman of the Finchley Society Mick Crick. They have entered a funding agreement with the Jeremy Collier Foundation, which works in the areas

of animal welfare, human health and food supply systems. The trustees say the task of repairing the farm buildings is likely to be substantial and expensive and will be subject to planning permissions being granted. They have not put a date on when the site could reopen to visitors.

Tenant farmer Chris Ower said: "Before the foot and mouth crisis of 2001, we held regular open days with thousands of visitors. It has been a source of great frustration that the farm has had to remain closed to the public for the past 25 years due to the poor condition of the buildings. We hope to be able to work with the Jeremy Collier Foundation to secure its long-term future and look forward to a time when we can welcome the public back."

Jeremy Collier, Chairman of the Jeremy Collier Foundation, said: "I have very fond memories of visiting College Farm in my youth and am very much looking forward to taking my grandchildren to visit the animals and to enjoy everything the Farm has to offer when the buildings and farm have been restored to their former glory."

Puzzle time: Re-Griddable

Re-Griddable is a twist on the free daily online game grid-dable.co.uk created by two East Finchley residents, Stuart Miller and Matt Robinson.

There may be more than one solution to each Re-Griddable but there is definitely at least one, which comes from a maximum scoring game of Griddable.

If you get stuck the official Griddable word-checker may help (griddable.co.uk/word-checker). If you like playing Griddable online, why not join the East Finchley Leaderboard? Go to Groups on the site and use code BUJRM4.

Re-Griddable No.7

Place the letters to create eight four-letter words — four left-to-right and four downwards.

A E E J M R R T

A		A	
H	I		
	V	E	N
	E		

Turn to page 11 for this month's solution

Be wise about water... not just in a drought

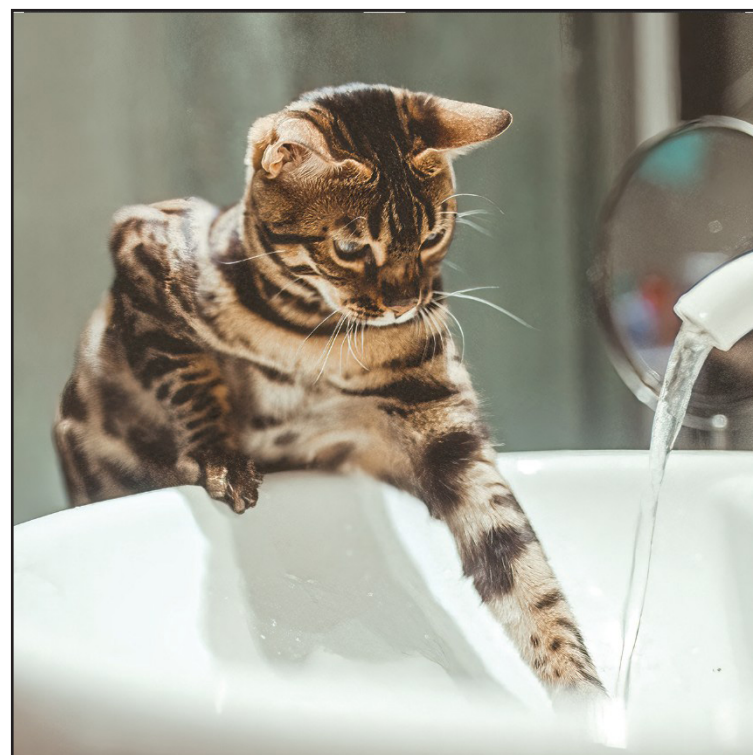
By Diana Cormack

At the time of writing we were set for the hottest and driest summer on record, with countrywide hosepipe bans and adverts on TV and radio about saving water.

Having as a child lived with grandparents in rural south west Wales when they had no mains water, I can well remember getting it from a pump in the garden. If that failed, we had to carry churns of water from a tap next to the village stream.

Around the bungalow were butts of rain water which grandma said was best for washing your hair. And I had to be second in the bath water after my brother!

This experience made me aware of water usage. I can never understand when there is a TV news item about it, they always show a tap in full flow. Everyone knows what that looks like and has hopefully learned by now not to let the water gush down the drain when cleaning their teeth. Use a mug or turn off the tap between brushings. Showering can save water too if, having wet your body, you turn off the shower before soaping your skin, then spray it clean. I've even heard of people who stand in a washing-up basin to shower, then use the water elsewhere. My washing-up water always ends up somewhere in the



Turn that tap off: Saving water is important all year round Image Helena Jankovičová Kováčová

garden, unless it is too greasy. Whenever I turn on a hot tap, I collect the run-off in a jug or suchlike. The water which would otherwise go down the drain can amount to quite a lot. You may be surprised if you try

measuring it, then work out how much you could save in a week and then in a year.

Just think of the amount which could be saved if everyone did this. Quite a few Olympic swimming pools worth!



Joy and movement: NIA is a popular form of fitness class

Is NIA new to you?

By Diana Cormack

If, like me, you've never heard of NIA, you may be interested to know that classes in this 40-year-old fitness holistic practice, which started in the US, are to begin next month in East Finchley.

Teacher Cindy Berman describes the activity as "a joyful form of movement to music for fitness, as well as mental, emotional and physical wellbeing". Classes are an hour long and open to all ages and

all levels of fitness and mobility.

The Sunday morning sessions begin on 11 October in the dance studio of the Archer Academy at 3 Beaumont Close, N2 0GA with drop-in classes

or a 10-week course. Further details from cindy@cindyberman.com or 07971 258427. For more information on NIA visit nianow.com