### World Wide Woods

A new web site has been set up by local Mark Kobayashi-Hillary to promote the conservation of Coldfall Wood in Muswell Hill.

The site also gives information on the history of the woods, and promotes the campaign by The Friends of Coldfall Wood to clean up the wood and prevent pollution running into the brook on the site.

The site can be found at www.coldfallwood.info

### The first cut

In mild dry spells it will be tempting to get out with the lawn mower and give that first cut. STOP! Has it been dry for long enough for you to do no damage to the soil by dragging over it? Have you had your mower serviced so the blades are nice and sharp and will cut rather than rip? Have you got spring bulbs in the lawn just poking through? Certainly, if you still have fallen leaves on the lawn you should go out and clear them up.

Trimming can then be finished only on deciduous trees; cutting into conifers and evergreens comes later on. If you are the proud owner of any colour-stained dogwoods or shrubby willows, cut the stems back to just above last year’s cut and you’ll get the new growth through the season that gives you the best coloured stems. I wouldn’t start hacking into things like this in February – just keep an eye on them to make sure that nothing has been damaged in winds that might let disease come in or that might break off leaving an exposed tear.

### The good seed

Those of you with greenhouses will be thinking about starting to sow your summer annuals. I hope you have had a good look through the catalogues and, of course, it’s not too late to order some seeds. Try something new that you don’t see in the garden centres. If you haven’t dabbled in growing from seed before, you can have a go this year. Use clean containers and fresh compost and follow the instructions on the packet. Don’t sow too closely and mix really fine seeds with some dry silver sand so you can see what you are doing. Don’t forget, if you are pricking out once but first pair of true leaves come through, to avoid holding the seedling by the stem – always hold by the top leaf and tease out using a dibber or, if improvising, a kitchen fork! Watering with something like Cheshunt Compound helps to cut down the chances of the fungal disease known as damping off but over watering and overcrowded seedlings will encourage it. If you have no greenhouse then hang on for a while until the sun is higher in the sky and you can make use of your windowsills.

### What’s On

Finchley jazz Club, Monday 10 & 24 Feb at Wilf Slack Cricket Pavillion, East End Rd, N3.

Work off the Christmas over-indulgence by joining step/aerobics classes free at bar X East Finchley. Classes start Sunday 23 January 1pm - 2pm, or book your own step mat and some experience.

Contact 0789 0031 968.

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### Regular Events

**World Wide Woods**

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### Archer Bridge

By Mike Graham

My brother and I are both keen skiers as well as bridge players, and earlier this year we spent a week in the French resort of La Plagne with Alpine Bridge, a company that specialises in ski and bridge holidays. Their Internet address is www.alpinebridge.co.uk.

The following hand occurred during a pairs competition, with my brother Andy sitting South:

**Dealer South**

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The bidding, later described by West as the Kangaroo Heart system, was:

**Game All**

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The diamond lead would have led to a swift demise, but West, not unreasonably, led a trump. Andy won in dummy with the king and played a spade to the ace, followed by another spade; East overtook her partner’s queen with the king in play and played a second trump. Andy won with the ten in hand, ruffed a spade with the queen of trumps in dummy, and returned to hand with the ace of clubs to run the trump suit.

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By joining step/aerobics classes free at bar X East Finchley, participants can lose weight, increase their fitness and burn calories. The studio is open for classes every Monday and Wednesday, and is located at the East Finchley Community Centre.