



## Fireworks on a starry night

Man-made stars hit the heavens in front of hundreds of spectators in the annual Martin Schools Fireworks spectacular.

More than 1,500 people turned out to 'ooh' and 'aah' at the 20-minute display on the school field in the High Road.

Clear skies on the evening meant temperatures were low but spectators could keep

themselves warm with bowls of chilli, chips and hot drinks.

The event was organised by Martin Schools PTA, in conjunction with the Finchley Community Development Trust and the East Finchley Festival.



## Birthday bongs from Sir Trevor

By Craig Johnson and Alex Nunes

Former *News at Ten* presenter Sir Trevor McDonald cut the cake to mark the second birthday of the artsdepot in North Finchley.

Comedy actor and director Richard Wilson was also a star guest at the party for our local arts venue on 26 October.

Birthday guests were treated to a live performance by contemporary dance company CandoCo, which used six spaces around the artsdepot building as its stage.

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## So easy you could do it in your sleep...

Barnet Council's recent competition to dream up a wacky photo about recycling was won by *ARCHER* writer and photographer Craig Johnson.

Craig kept things close to home and came up with this bedroom picture to show recycling is easy enough to do in your sleep. Well done, Craig!



## In memory of the fallen

The people of Barnet paid tribute to the millions who gave their lives for their country and remembered the loved ones left behind, in eleven ceremonies throughout the borough on Sunday 12 November. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Eva Greenspan, accompanied by her escort, Mr Leonard Wilson, laid a wreath at the Hendon War Memorial at 11am.

The service was attended by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Freer, and Chief Executive Leo Boland. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chaville, France, which is twinned with Barnet, were also present.



## Clissold closes

The Clissold, an historic pub in Fortis Green, closed abruptly a couple of months ago.

The main doors are barred shut, and there are no signs of it ever re-opening. What next, a planning application to build yet more flats?



Bettie Cude receiving her book from the editor. Picture by Sue Holliday

## Book competition winners

In September we asked readers to answer the question: *Which ex-British government minister's father was himself a refugee from the Spanish Civil War?* The answer was: **Michael Portillo.**

The first two correct entrants to have their names drawn out of the hat were Betty Cude and Johnny Green. Each receives a copy of local author Chris Haslam's book *el Sid*, which one newspaper reviewer described as essential reading.

## Senior volunteers go MADD

Members of Barnet's 500 RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteers Project) took part in the nationwide "Make a difference day" at the end of October.

For their version of "MADD", the 50-strong Knitting Group packed shoeboxes with gifts for needy children around the world. Contributions from the group and their friends included toiletries, stationery and toys, as well as knitted garments and "trauma teddies".

The following day, RSVP hosted one of their regular meals for the homeless, with pizzas from Pizza Express Finchley. For several years, the senior volunteers have been providing the homeless with meals on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

For information about RSVP's many and varied activities, contact Mandy Francis on 020 8445 5265, Pam Cox on 020 8440 0421 or Bill Ibbotson on 020 8441 0291.

## Tube station restoration

Work is under way to make East Finchley tube station cleaner and safer for passengers. Walls, roofs and windows will be repaired between now and next summer.

Extra CCTV cameras will be installed along with customer help points and new information indicator boards on the platforms. Most of the work is being carried out overnight to avoid disruption.

## Now bring us some figgy pudding...

By Diana Cormack

This is a modern version of the dish demanded in the old song "We wish you a Merry Christmas". Make it and you could really surprise the carol singers at your door. This recipe serves four.

### Ingredients

250g / 9oz of dried figs  
2 tbsp of seedless raisins  
1-2 tbsp of runny honey  
Grated rind of half a lemon  
A dash of Amaretto, brandy, port, marsala wine or fresh orange juice  
2 tbsp flaked almonds (toasted)  
Greek yoghurt or vanilla ice cream

### Method

Put the figs in a saucepan with about 2cm of cold water. Heat to simmer for about 15 mins until the figs are soft but not mushy. Stir in the honey, lemon rind and whatever alcohol you are using. Serve while still warm with yoghurt or ice cream and the toasted almonds scattered on top.