

THE ARCH

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Wright-y on the ball for **Bishop Douglass**

JULY 2006

By John Dearing

Ian Wright, TV presenter and former Arsenal and **England footballer, thrilled** pupils and teachers alike when he joined the Bishop **Douglass After School** Fitness Club for a session on Wednesday 21 June.

The club is focused mainly on children who don't necessarily shine in more traditional school sporting activities, and provides them with a less pressured environment to improve their fitness and introduce them to the whole range of sports available locally.

The session was led by Stephen O'Brien, assisted by Stephen Lenane, both PE teachers, and assistant head teacher Bash Malik. The emphasis was on football, with routines in pairs and small teams, running and passing the ball.

Ian Wright joined in the game, making judicious interventions and offering much loud encouragement. The whole session was filmed as part of a series on after school fitness clubs for broadcast on Channel 4 later this year.

Ian Wright at Bishop Douglass School. Picture by John Dearing

Warm weather warning!

The warmer weather is here and with it comes the everpresent invitation to burglars by residents who leave their homes unoccupied with windows open, or who go to bed at night without making sure that patio doors and back doors are locked securely.

Going to bed and leaving downstairs windows open can be a gift to the burglar who will seize any opportunity to relieve residents of their hard earned property. During the day, even the smallest window should be closed and locked if the house is left empty.

A first floor window over a flat roof can easily give access to a larger window and getting into the house is then too easy for the opportunist burglar. Drainpipes, wheelie bins and garden sheds will all give opportunities for burglars to climb up to reach a small open window. Moving the shed or drainpipe is not an option,

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but closing and locking the window is.

When working or relaxing in the back garden care should be taken to ensure that the front of the house is secure. The same applies if you are busy in the front garden and cannot see the back of the house.

Barnet Police point out that insurance companies may refuse to meet any claim if it is found that the homeowner

Spike in the park

By Daphne Chamberlain

There was a good turn-out for the Spike Milligan Statue Fund's Summer Afternoon in the Park last month. On Fathers' Day, Spike Milligan's daughter Sile was a steward at the Avenue House event, and families - celebrity and otherwise - were there in force.

PAGE 12

Entertainers included East Finchley's Henry Van Emden and the Angels of Kaos. Henry has been a musician for 80 years, while some Angels are singers from our local schools.

Barnet sculptor John Somerville, who, as the compere said, looked like a rock musician, appeared on stage to show a hand-held model of the Milligan statue he is working on. The fullscale version should be placed in Avenue House Grounds in 18 months to two years time.

Artist Julia Breck unveiled her own portrait of Spike that will be hung in Avenue House.

As children queued to ride on Mill Hill Rotary Club's decorated bus, and to try their hands at archery, items donated by the likes of Michael Palin, Terry Gilliam, Dame Edna and Tony Blair went under the hammer.

Auctioneers included Councillor Brian Coleman and the Mayor, who said that Spike (one of the saviours of Strawberry Vale's Hawthorn Dene) had always taken town planning issues very seriously.

The compere was East Finchley's David Smith, supported by other members of The Finchley Society. Spike was the Society's first president and then patron until his death.

There is still some way to go to raise the £55,000 estimated for the cost of the statue. Anyone wanting to contribute should make cheques payable to The Spike Milligan Statue Fund and send them to: The Secretary, SMSF, 17Abbots Gardens, N2 0JG. There is a website at www. spikestatue.org.uk.



Refugee festival success

The 6th Barnet Refugee **Festival on Sunday 18 June** was a huge success attracting nearly 600 refugees and asylum seekers.

Theresa Villiers MP opened the festival, praising the vital contribution that refugees have made and continue to make to our society.

It was a wonderful sunny day with food from many countries and delightful entertainment by children and young people from our diverse refugee communities. The day-long festival in Hendon was superbly organised by the Barnet Refugee Forum led for this event by Farid Mall, the director of Paiwand Afghan Organisation which is based at East Finchley Advice Centre in Church Lane and offers support to Afghan refugees in Barnet and surrounding boroughs.

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