



YOUNG ARCHER

New play equipment promised

By Diana Cormack

Cherry Tree Wood is one of 11 parks nominated to receive a new range of play equipment. Barnet Council gave the go ahead for the installation of equipment in selected parks across the borough by 2010.

Barnet Council says that each play area will be developed in consultation with local children, young people and families, ensuring they have a say in the design of the new equipment.

Funding comes from Play England, which is supporting local authority play builders and play pathfinders to deliver the government's £235 million investment in play and to transform local areas into innovative and adventurous play spaces. Barnet will use phase one of its £1.1 million allocation to

focus on equipment that promotes active, imaginative and adventurous play for eight to 13-year-olds.

Consultation

It seems a pity that activities for older teenagers have not been included. Whatever your age, please let *YOUNG ARCHER* know what you would like to see provided in the park for the children of East Finchley. Our contact details are on page 2.

Councillor Andrew Harper, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "The Playbuilder funding is aimed

at providing play facilities for eight to 13-year-olds. There will still be some play equipment, although this will be built into the landscape, and will be designed to offer challenges and different experiences for young and older children.

"The Friends of the Wood were not aware of the funding as it was only confirmed at the end of September. The group as well as local residents and other park users will be involved in a detailed consultation on the type of equipment and improvements to be made to the park's play facilities in the near future."



Clare in an improvisation activity with some of the students at Friern Barnet's Saturday morning drama academy

Saturday morning performance

By Helen Drake

If you like acting, dancing or just rocking out, you'll be pleased to know that Friern Barnet School has relaunched its Saturday morning Dance and Drama Academies, along with its Rock School, and is inviting children and teenagers between Years 4 and 13 to give it a try.

Two children from East Finchley who did just that are Alice and Isobel Cronshaw. Alice, who has just started in Year 7 at Friern Barnet School, said: "We are working on an end-of-term show. I do dance too and we are studying different styles of dance such as fast and slow jazz and musical theatre. It's good exercise and is a fun start to the weekend."

Isobel who goes along with her sister and is in Year 5 at Martin Primary School said: "I like making new friends and it gets me active on a Saturday morning. I love improvisation as it is so funny."

Confidence-boosting

"Their increased confidence is so evident in youngsters coming to the sessions," said Clare Viccars, Assistant Headteacher and Arts College Director at Friern Barnet School. "They're mixing with new groups of friends and learning skills at a high level by contributing to script writing, performing and working together. It's really great fun."

All classes take place on

Saturday mornings at Friern Barnet School, Hemington Avenue, N11. Sessions run from 9.30am to 11am and 11.15am to 12.30pm. For more information call 020 8368 2777 and ask for the arts office or e-mail e.dingwall@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Half-price travel for jobseekers

Barnet jobseekers are now entitled to half-price bus travel across the capital.

Under a scheme announced by the Mayor of London's office, residents claiming jobseeker's allowance or the new employment and support allowance can now get the same half-price travel concession that those on Income Support receive.

Residents on the lowest incomes will have to pay only 50p for a single bus journey, half the £1 adult Oyster fare and a quarter of the £2 cash fare.

To find out more about the concessionary travel scheme, visit www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets

Win a family ticket to see

Santa on stage

Ever wondered how Santa gets down the chimney, why reindeer pull his sleigh and how he got the name Santa Claus? You can find out the answers to these questions and more as artsdepot and Big Wooden Horse bring *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* to the stage this Christmas.

From L. Frank Baum, the writer of *The Wizard of Oz*, the show is being brought to the UK for the first time and features audience participation as well as music and original songs. It's ideal for children aged four and upwards.

It follows the story of an orphan boy called Claus who grows up in a magical world of woodland folk. When he sees the suffering of ordinary people, he becomes determined to help and prepares to deliver toys to every boy and girl.

Enter our competition and you could win a family ticket for four people to see the show. Email your contact details and your answer to the following question to info@artsdepot.co.uk by Friday 20 November. Mark your email Archer Competition. The winner will be chosen at random by artsdepot and a date to see the show will be arranged according to availability.

Question: What was the name of Santa's red-nosed reindeer?

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus runs at artsdepot from Saturday 5 December to Sunday 3 January. Tickets are priced £10 (£8 concessions). A family ticket is priced £32 and admits four. To book, contact the box office on 020 8369 5454 or book online at www.artsdepot.co.uk

Curtain up on drama club

The curtain has gone up on a new season of drama club for secondary school students on Monday evenings in Tetherdown Hall, Muswell Hill. The weekly sessions are run by Dominic Conway, a professional actor who was born and raised in East Finchley.

The drama club was set up by local actress Carolyn Pickles, who asked Dominic to take over while she is on tour with a stage production of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Having done a few trial sessions, Dominic said: "Carolyn has created a supportive and creative environment. I look forward to seeing how things will develop. There is room for more in both groups, so we'd be very pleased to have some new people coming along. The

classes are especially useful for anyone interested in doing well in their drama GCSEs, A-levels, or people who'd like to take steps towards becoming professional actors."

Classes take place in Tetherdown Hall on Mondays during term time. Years 7, 8 and 9 meet at 6.30pm. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 meet at 8.15pm. Cost is £10 per session. For more information, contact Dominic at d.conway.drama@live.com or 07727 243273.

7th Annual **ART CRAFT FAIR** charity event in aid of **FAMILY HOLIDAY ASSOCIATION** Tombola Face painting Light Refreshments

Saturday 14th November
10:30am - 4:30pm

**Henrietta Barnett School Hall
Central Square NW11 7BN**

Glassware * Ceramics * Scarves * Handbags * Jewellery * Throws
Knitwear * Toys * Cards * Candles * Baskets * Natural Skin Products

H2 Bus from Golders Green Station Ample free parking

Reg Charity No. 800262
www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk email: fhcraftfair@hotmail.com
TEL: 020 743 63304 TEL: 020 8883 0219 Admission £2

east finchley open **2009** 6th annual

ART & CRAFT FAIR

original and affordable work by local artists

Sunday 22 November
11 am to 5 pm

Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk,
High Road N2 9JP. On bus route 263,
nearest tube station East Finchley

**All Saints' Church,
Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England**

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

**The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.**

**All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.**

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>