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THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

What now for the Monday Club?

Maureen Clemetson, founder member of a popular local youth club, has contacted *THE ARCHER* with an appeal to the community:

The Monday Club celebrates its sixth birthday on 31 October. We began at the High Road Methodist Church, but after 18 months outgrew this venue. So we moved to St Mary's RC Church, another wonderful venue, where we spent almost three years.

In April 2010 we moved to the Old Barn off Tarling Road. We thought this would be ideal because it offered more space and scope for the children to reach their full potential in music mixing, street dancing, cooking, art and craft etc. coupled with a good play area outside. However, it gradually became apparent that things

were not okay and in November we had to move out due to health and safety issues. These were duly rectified but not fully.

Every day children asked me when the club would start again. I could not give them a time or date. This really broke my heart because I knew those children were counting on us to find them somewhere to go. The Monday Club was something stable, a place where they could come and be themselves. They knew that, come what may, we would make every effort to be there running it for them.

This April I explained our circumstances to Martin School and they let us use their playing fields. This was wonderful news, particularly for boys from Strawberry Vale and The Grange who were able to play football refereed by two coaches from Barnet FC. The Rolling Base bus with all their apparatus came and gave us a hand occasionally because, apart from football, there were few activities for the others.

With the winter evenings there can be no more football, so where are these children going to go? There are 60 or more of them each Monday evening. Martin School has kindly offered a Portakabin for the eight to 12-year-olds, but what about the teenagers? It is important that somewhere is found for them or else what? I leave that to you. If you can help in any way, please call 07931 586 740.



Quite a handful: Paul Long sizes up his giant harvest.
Photo by Jane Ray

Champion cabbage for Paul

Allotment holder Paul Long can hardly get his hands around the giant cabbages that have grown on his plot this year. Hard work and excellent growing conditions have led to flourishing greens.

This particular cabbage, pictured on Paul's plot at the East Finchley Allotments behind Martin School, measures 13ins or 33cm across at its heart, with the outer leaves spreading further still.

Paul, formerly a high-ranking civil servant, choral singer, marathon runner and gardener has been in a wheelchair since

suffering from a stroke two years ago. His allotment has always been close to his heart and he's been able to keep his fingers green with the help of a more accessible plot with raised beds, provided by the allotment committee, and a new shed he assembled with the help of his brother-in-law.

Allotments for all on page 6.

Pavilion plans abandoned

Plans to turn the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood into a community café have been dropped. Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the Lazy Sally kiosk in the park, told *THE ARCHER* that her proposal to Barnet Council had been outbid by another interested party.

We reported in our August issue how Sally was hoping to cover the estimated £175,000 cost of refurbishing the pavilion by launching a scheme for people to buy shares at £100 a time to support the work.

Sally's plans faced opposition from some local people who claimed that activity in

the pavilion could become a nuisance for near-neighbours. Opening hours in Sally's proposal were adjusted to take these objections into account.

THE ARCHER hopes to report next month on the successful bidder for the pavilion. In the meantime, you can read Sally's letter to us on page 11.



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