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Local News is our Aim

# THE ARCHER




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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Time running out: Vijay Negi and Robin MacDonald serve customers at the Juice Bar.  
Photo by Nick Young.

## Juice bar close to running dry

By Nick Young

A juice bar which offers job training opportunities to young people with learning difficulties may have to cease trading if it cannot raise the funds it needs to stay open.

The Drink It Juice Bar has been at the Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road since July. It is a partnership project led by Barnet Mencap and originally ran with the aid of a corporate grant from Barnet Council. Now this grant has ended, the bar's future is in jeopardy.

"We need another £2,000 to

keep the bar going," explained project co-ordinator Laura Davitt. "At the moment we have enough for one more week and then three weeks after Easter ... we'd like to operate until at least the end of July and we need to raise funds to achieve this." Sponsored events are being planned and will be announced in the near future.

The bar opens every Saturday from 10.30am to 1.30pm. So far, it has offered training and paid work experience to a total of 14 young people, three of whom work there each Saturday. It received four stars at a recent environmental health inspection.

The Drink It Juice Bar also has a mobile facility which can cater for local festivals, events and conferences. For more information, Laura can be contacted by email (laura.davitt@barnetmencap.org.uk) or by telephone (020 8349 3842).

## Double celebration for green spaces

By Ann Bronkhorst

Two adjoining green spaces, long under-used and at times even neglected, have been given new status, protection and the promise of improvement, thanks to local support and the efforts of volunteers.

Four Haringey parks topped a poll to win special Queen Elizabeth II status and, crucially, protection from future development. One of the four is Muswell Hill Playing Fields, much improved in recent years and increasingly used by local families as well as sports teams. Now, as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, this fine open space with its play and sport facilities will be permanently preserved for future generations to enjoy. Soon after hearing that good news, the Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Field were rejoicing again: their application to the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces programme had been successful. A grant of almost £50,000 will fund several major projects in Coldfall Wood to improve access, combat pollution in the stream by restoring a damaged reedbed and create a boardwalk in an area prone to flooding. The work will be carried out by Groundwork UK, responsible for the restoration of the gardens at Avenue House, East

End Road.

### Committed volunteers

Cllr Nilgun Canver, Haringey Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, congratulated the Friends on their successful bid and acknowledged the hard work and commitment of all Friends groups in Haringey. Indeed, volunteers planted daffodils last autumn along the edges of the Muswell Hill Playing Field, helped by children from three local schools, and regularly clear litter, old Christmas trees and stolen bikes from the woodland.

A programme of work-days in the wood, including coppicing, has continued through 2011 and into 2012, involving Friends of Coldfall Wood and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers guided by Haringey's Nature Conservation Officer. To find out more about plans and achievements for the Fields and the Wood and about forthcoming events such as bird walks, bat walks and more, visit [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk)

## Seed and plant swap

Attention, gardeners. There is to be a seed and plant swap day at Martin Primary School, High Road, on Sunday 22 April from 2pm to 4pm.

Bring your spare seeds, plants and cuttings, from runner beans to exotics, to swap with others: no money involved. Who knows what you might find? Tell your fellow gardeners and allotment holders.

This is East Finchley's first such event and is an East Finchley Community Trust initiative. For more information contact Charles O'Toole on 020 8444 8461.

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