

Six of the best from **Altogether Better**

Six starter ideas have emerged from the East Finchley Altogether Better project, reported on in our October issue. Local people have come up with the ideas and they hope they'll have the support of the whole community. Here's an outline of the Big Six so far.

1. Back-to-work confidence workshops

Several people have pooled their skills and are suggesting a backto-work confidence workshop where they would offer advice on CV writing, make-up tips for interviews and the workplace, and a photographer would take some great shots of attendees after the workshop. Can you offer any skills to get this workshop up and running or would you like to take part?

2. Cooking skills: share advice on simple meals for confidence in the kitchen

Some people may feel they lack the skills or confidence to prepare nutritious, affordable meals for themselves and their families. A couple of local residents are keen to share their skills with others. Do you also have cooking tips to share? Or would you benefit from learning some?

3. The Hub, young people's centre

This idea was for a centre or café run by young people, for young people, somewhere to go in the evenings to socialise in a safe place. This could be in an existing venue, run by student volunteers facilitated by parents/schools. Do you know of such a venue? Would you be keen to help supervise this group, or advise in getting it off the ground?

4. IT & Biscuits, learning to use computers and the internet This group is keen to look at ways of giving people the opportunity to learn about IT and use it confidently. Do you know of a person or group that would benefit from this? Could you spare any time to teach some of your knowledge?

5. Table tennis group

This group is keen to have a table set up for use by older people in the day and younger people after school times. The idea is to socialise and get fit, with refreshments and coaching available at weekly sessions. Would you like to help lead or take part in this group? Do you know of a table tennis table or venue that could be used for this?

6. Information sharing, noticeboards and website

The need for one clear online source of information and local noticeboards around East Finchley was also discussed, so EFAB are looking into this idea further.

Besides these six ideas, other projects are in the wings waiting for people who might be able to get them off the ground. These include gardening group East Finchley Green Fingers, fitness group Mums Who Run and days out group Homes and Away for people living alone or in care or sheltered accommodation who don't get many outings.

If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved in any of these projects, call Lisa on 07909 998453. For information on progress and next events, follow East Finchley Altogether Better on twitter @EastFinchleyAB.







Children from the school council at Manorside School help out with the tree planting.

New trees get watered in

By Diane Langleben

The torrential rain on the morning of 8 November did not deter the throng of people who braved the weather to attend the planting of an avenue of trees, comprising mainly oaks, in Victoria Park, Finchlev.

the Hindu Volunteers' Organi-

sation, Hindu Swayamsevak

Among those attending was the deputy mayor of Barnet, Councillor Bridget Perry, Councillor Dean Cohen, children from the school council at Manorside School in Squires Lane, the children of the Rocking Horse Nursery, Reverend Nicholas Pye of St Paul's Church, Long Lane, and many local residents.

The project was created and funds raised by an informal group of local residents, Etchingham Friends, co-ordinated by Brian Plen. The planting took place in conjunction with the London Borough of Barnet, whose Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Tracy Sawyer, provided much help and advice.

The Finchley Society was also involved and on the day, volunteers from the Pratap Shakha Finchley, the local branch of

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Sangh, were willing hands in setting up a refreshments tent.



Crash destroys traffic lights

By Janet Maitland

A driver and a passenger ran away and left their car after being involved in a crash that demolished a set of traffic lights on the High Road.

Two vehicles were involved in the collision that wrecked the traffic lights and pelican crossing at the junction between the High Road, East End Road and Fortis Green in the early hours of 18 October, as shown in our photo by Nick Young.

When police arrived at about 5.45am, they found that only one driver had stayed at the scene. He was uninjured.

The traffic lights were secured and a police car remained close by for the rest of the morning. No arrests have yet been made. If you witnessed the accident please call police on 101.



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- **Sports Injury ■** Frozen Shoulder
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