



Former staff of Martin School, happy to be back at the reunion tea party. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Back through the old school gates

By Ann Bronkhorst

**This year the Martin school has been exploring its past and accumulating an archive of documents, photos and stories. There's a whole century to be explored and, as deputy head John Pickering said on 7 October, the next 100 years may bring other remarkable changes.**

He was sharing some of the school's history at an afternoon gathering in a hall festooned with balloons. Tea, home-made cakes, walkabouts and reminiscences were enjoyed by people who'd had a connection with the school, most as pupils, teachers or parents.

### Memories

Some could recall the 1940s (school milk delivered by horse and cart, the wartime plane that crashed on the allotments, the air-raid shelters) and some had vivid memories of individuals (the children who died from polio, the naughty boys, the friends).

A group of teachers from the 1970s and 1980s looked in on their old staffroom and reminisced about pupils and colleagues. They remembered warm, supportive relationships between staff but a firm divide between those working in the 'Infants' and those in the 'Juniors'.

The schools were separated in 1943 and reunited in 2007,

changes mirrored in the structural alterations that have taken place over time. Internal walls have been removed to create larger spaces, age groups have swapped base rooms and new buildings are appearing as the Martin School expands.

### Party time

Visitors were welcomed again on the evening of 11 October with music, refreshments and a party atmosphere. John Pickering thanked the Centenary Committee and others who'd worked hard on the get-togethers, research and displays. "We've learned a lot about the school over the last year or two," he said.

Many of the findings were shown in striking, very professional wall-displays. In one of these, Michael Elliott, a pupil from 1935-1941, spotted a photo of the teacher who'd given him "not a boring book but a chocolate speedboat!"

Children's own work, too, reflected the centenary. 'The Ultimate Year 6 Guide: 100

things to do before you are 12' was one of many imaginative displays in corridors and classrooms. Curious and nostalgic visitors explored freely, rediscovering what ex-nursery teacher Angela Zambito (nee Moraitou) called "this lovely school". She recalled international lunches produced with parents' help and "the richness and variety of children from a wide range of backgrounds".

If you missed these reunions, come to the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 14 December, 12-3pm. As well as fun and games for children (Santa's been invited) and plenty to buy, there'll be a 'centenary corner' where former pupils, staff and parents can meet once more: a fitting roundup to the Centenary Year.

## Never miss a bus again

**Many bus passengers already make use of the text message service that tells them how far away their next bus is. Now they**

## Changes for Stanley Field

**The development of the Archer Academy's Stanley Road campus has moved up a gear with the planning application being submitted to Barnet Council.**

As reported previously in *THE ARCHER*, the sale of the field was dependent on agreeing a deed of dedication safeguarding at least 60% of the site for sport and recreation use by the whole community.

Roger Chapman, who's led Sport East Finchley in negotiations about the future of the field and is on the Board of the Academy, told us that the Deed of Dedication was currently with lawyers, and he would be having further discussions with Fields in Trust, the organisation that protects sports sites for the community even when the ownership of them changes hands.

Roger also told us that the bid for funding the sports facilities had been submitted to the London Marathon Charitable Trust. A decision on this is expected in November or early December.

### Local views and questions

The Academy's plans for Stanley Field include the con-

struction of new school buildings, as well as sports facilities which will be available for use by local people when not in use by the school.

The Academy has been asking for feedback from local residents and other interested parties, prior to the council planning meeting on 18 December.

Avis Johns, the school's chair of governors, said: "We've got a lot of information on our website and we're happy to answer any questions people may have, so please get in touch with us if you would like to know more."

The planning application can be viewed at [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) (reference number F/04475/13) or by going to Barnet House in Whetstone. The deadline for commenting on the plans is 7 November but further information can be found at [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk)

## Our 1% library

By Daphne Chamberlain

**In September, Barnet Council announced that we can now enjoy Wi-Fi internet access and self-service facilities in 99% of our libraries. Councillor Robert Rams greeted the news as "fantastic", saying, "The council is absolutely committed to adapting our libraries to meet the demands of the ever evolving habits of the modern day visitor."**

Unfortunately, East Finchley will have to wait a little longer to meet these demands, as our library is the only one without these facilities. A council spokesperson told *THE ARCHER*: "East Finchley Library is a listed

building, and we are working closely with the heritage planning officer in Barnet, and with English Heritage, to develop a solution which will enable us to introduce Wi-Fi and self-service kiosks without altering the fabric of the building. This takes time, but we are making progress, and hope to have a detailed timetable for implementation very soon. It is not possible to simply amend the current counter, and to do so would require English Heritage approval."

Once self-service is installed, people will be able to borrow, renew or return books by using touch screens. Staff will be around to help.

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**All Saints' Church,  
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**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.  
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.**  
(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

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  
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Experienced singers are always welcome.  
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.  
<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>