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The train approaching platform one... is full of gravel

Hordes of high-vis workmen invade the tracks as the Northern line upgrade works reach East Finchley. In the foreground, one

man uses a metal cutter to slice through the rail in a spray of sparks while behind him service trucks bring in materials for

the new track bed. This photo was taken by John Dearing in the cutting between East End Road and Stanley Road on the weekend of 12-13 October. Track improvements and weekend line closures are expected to continue beyond the summer of 2014, possibly up to December next year.

Quiz master has them puzzling

By Sheila Armstrong

The world of pub quizzes is a way of life with its own rules and traditions. First appearing around 1976, there are currently about 383 in London each week. On 1 October, The Old White Lion pub hosted the fifth birthday quiz in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital organised by Brian Hooper.

The whole of the pub's dining room was buzzing with over 15 quiz teams from East Finchley and all over London. Impeccably organised, quizmaster Brian quietly and efficiently asked the questions, took the money from late comers, cut the birthday cake and still had time for a joke or a friendly word. The pub provided a selection of prizes, from a £50 bar tab to a packet of crisps, and £70 was raised on the night.

Brian also fundraises for other causes including All Saints Church in Whetstone, the RSPCA in East Finchley and others. Other events at The Old White Lion are planned in the lead-up to Christmas. Contact Brian on Facebook at OWL / Brian's Tuesday Quiz, on his mobile 07775 932 906 or email briansquiz@aol.com



Quiz master Brian Hooper gets the teams puzzling.

Pinkham Way plant dropped

North London Waste Authority has dropped plans for a waste treatment plant at Pinkham Way after agreeing to keep its waste management services in-house by continuing to use its existing facility at Edmonton.

The NLWA, which handles waste disposal for seven north London boroughs, originally planned to build a mechanical-biological waste facility (MBT), capable of handling 300,000 tonnes of non-recyclable household waste per year, on the nature conservation site at Pinkham Way, making it one of the very largest waste processing facilities in Europe.

This was revised in December 2012 to a Materials Recycling Facility building (MRF), but local residents and campaigners feared the size of it would obliterate the nature conservation site, and add more than 1,000 vehicle movements per day to the junction of the North Circular Road with Colney Hatch Lane.

The NLWA has admitted that the decision to scrap the plans will save it £900 million over 30 years, however £32 million has already been spent on this cancelled project and the unnecessary purchase of the land.

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