



## YOUNG ARCHER



Row, row, row your boat.... Photo Diana Cormack

## Fun for the very young

By Diana Cormack

A couple of years ago new mother Kate Constantinou was looking for something to do in East Finchley. After all, when you are a singer who has appeared in West End shows like *Chicago*, everyday life may seem a little mundane at times.

Kate solved the problem by mixing her musical talents with her motherly role. She set up Musical Tots, which brings together parents and babies in weekly sessions that Kate hopes will lead to lasting friendships.

As well as aiding social skills, the sing-alongs with Kate help in the development of speech, movement and expression. They also give parents the chance to enjoy a sociable chat and a coffee. Meetings are held at 11am on Wednesdays in the

Old White Lion (next to East Finchley tube station) and on Fridays in the Five Bells (165 – 167 East End Road). To find out more call 07909 938 230.

Kate also entertains adults, performing in local pubs such as the Clissold Arms, Fortis Green, and she recently featured in a Motown Night at the Five Bells.

### Plans for Five Bells

At the Five Bells new general manager Trudy Corless has more plans for music and

entertainment and has introduced a karaoke night on the first Saturday of the month at the request of customers. Trudy has been at the Five Bells since October and is keen to get herself and the pub involved in the community. She loves being in East Finchley and told *THE ARCHER*: "I have been made to feel so welcome by everybody. It has made settling in so easy." For more information call 020 8883 1714 or visit [www.flaminggrillpubs.com](http://www.flaminggrillpubs.com)

## Family travel blog shortlisted for awards

Sarah Ebner and her two children, Jessica aged 12 and Robert, aged 9, have set up their own family travel blog, which is going from strength to strength and has just been shortlisted for two awards.

The blog, called *Family Travel Times*, is written by Sarah, who is a journalist for *The Times* newspaper, and the children, who write their own articles. It has just been shortlisted in the travel and video categories of the Brilliance in Blogging Awards, or Bibs.

Sarah, who lives in Baronsmere Road, says she thinks that the children's own work might be the secret of its success.

"People seem to love reading about the children's own opinions," she says. "Usually it's adults writing what they

think children like and dislike."

The blog features posts on holidays and days out, and includes articles on places as far apart as Jamaica and the Isle of Mull in Scotland. It also includes lots of local attractions in London and the South East.

"We hope it's fun to read and useful," says Sarah. You can read *Family Travel Times* at <http://familytraveltimes.blogspot.com/> or its Facebook Page ([facebook.com/Familytraveltimes](https://www.facebook.com/Familytraveltimes)). The winners of the Bibs are due to be announced at the end of June.



Travelling right: Sarah Ebner with husband Brian and children

## A youth club not to be missed

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Space Youth Club at the Green Man Community Centre has been running successfully for five years. Vicki Williams took on the running of the club last year and says: "Every week we do something different, we like to keep the club fresh. Currently the kids bounce through the door asking immediately, 'What are we cooking? What crafts are we making? How can I win a prize this week?'"

They play classic old school games like shuffleboard, pinball alley, skittles, British bulldog and other games with a modern twist like balloon volleyball (legs only) and Malteser races. In the kitchen resident chef Natasha involves children in making fresh versions of their favourite foods which are tasty, filling and healthy and not the least bit processed.

Luke, aged 11 said, "When it was my birthday the club had a party for me. I chose the games and we cooked lasagne, my favourite. They even bought me a birthday present!"

### Free first session

The club is run for the community by Barnet Lone Parent Centre, a registered charity. It is open on Tuesdays, during term time, from 4 till 5.30pm. You don't need to be a lone parent for your children to attend. Further details can be obtained from Barnet Lone Parent Centre, Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, Finchley, N2 9BA or call 020 7021 4146.

Bring your child to the club (with this article) and the first session is free; thereafter it's only £1 a week which includes a free hot meal and drink.

### PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ⊙ **Baby & U baby massage.** Contact Ruth at [babymassagewithruth@gmail.com](mailto:babymassagewithruth@gmail.com), [www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage](http://www.facebook.com/baby-andubabymassage)
- ⊙ **Dads' Club:** Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ⊙ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at [east-finchleynct@googlemail.com](mailto:east-finchleynct@googlemail.com)
- ⊙ **Muswell Hill Toy Library** story time, singalong and other events. 8444 0244/ 8489 8774, [www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com](http://www.muswellhilltoylibrary.com)
- ⊙ **Musical Tots:** Wednesdays 11am at the Old White Lion and Fridays 11am at The Five Bells N2. [Katemusicaltots](https://www.facebook.com/katemusicaltots) on facebook.
- ⊙ **Parent & Toddler Group,** Green Man Centre, Sajni 8359 3460/Julia 8444 2276
- ⊙ **Phoenix Cinema activities,** Bringing up baby screenings, Weds, 11am; Kids Club, Sat, 12pm; Toddler Time, Tues, 11am. Full details from box office on 020 8444 6789.
- ⊙ **Stepping Stones,** interactive play for under 3s. Tues 10am, East Finchley Baptist Church. Liz 07836 284538.
- ⊙ **Teddy Bears' Music,** singing for 0-3s in Holy Trinity Church, N2; Thurs 9.45am & 10.45am. Camilla 07900 988149.

## Treats and promises under the hammer

By Erini Rodis

Spring term ended on a high at Martin School as fundraisers held an auction of promises and a curry night to raise a massive amount of money.

Local businesses and individuals connected to the school were all tirelessly hounded by the school's formidable team of parent and governor fundraisers to donate a vast selection of items, vouchers and experiences, which were then offered up for auction or raffle.

Retailer Noel Lynch kindly donated his time as auctioneer and opened the event to an expectant and increasingly inebriated crowd.

A battle of the wallets began as with all the speed and fervour of a racing commentator Mr Lynch squeezed every last penny out of the winning bidders. Lots ranged from bespoke

pudding supplies to family days out, professional and amateur services, eye tests and hair-dressing vouchers; even some of the school's original coat hooks, and of course "being Head for a day".

The cashier on the night, who shall remain anonymous for security reasons, said it had been like a crazy shift down at the local bank on a Friday afternoon. The final impressive total was £5,700.

The school is now organising its Summer Fair, to be held on Saturday 14 June from 12noon to 4pm and to include some exciting new attractions. Everyone is welcome.

**Naomi Burgess** MSc Ed Psych CPsychol AFBPsS



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