



YOUNG ARCHER

The eyes have it

By Marian Bunzl

Lately there has been some fascinating analysis of dog behaviour with special regard to their eyes. Wolves, from whom all dogs evolved, have maintained a straight, piercing stare of menace, with no change of expression, suitable for their life in the wild.

Dogs, who live with and are dependent on humans, have evolved a set of muscles around the eye socket which allows them to express their feelings: from the narrow, beady eyed stare when they see something to eat or chase, to the round-eyed, soulful gaze that says "I love you".

From my vantage point at the North London Chorus stall at the East Finchley Festival back in June I could watch many dogs up close as they went by: the tilt of their head, the tip of their tails, their tongues – all had something to say – but their eyes conveyed the true depth of their feelings.

During the festival, Cherry Tree Wood was alive with the sound of music, laughter and the bustle of people enjoying themselves among the lively stalls,

children's amusements, and the delicious smell of cooking food. Amongst it all, the dogs of East Finchley, all sizes and breeds, were all beautifully behaved.

Academy open day

Prospective parents are invited to visit the Archer Academy in Eagans Close, N2, for a series of open events this month.

The official open evening is on Thursday 19 September and there are also a series of Year 6 taster lessons, small group tours and informal coffee mornings. Find full details in the Admissions section of the school's website at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk>



The dogs of East Finchley: Back row, from the left: Gertie, Otis, Merlin, Unkown. Front row, from the left: Tess, Nala, Alfie. Centre: Bailey.

Saturday morning football for girls

Lymore Girls Football Club, a community club aimed at primary school children under 11, is now running at Martin Primary School field in East Finchley every Saturday morning during term time between 10am and 11am.

The club says it aims to create a friendly social environment, bringing girls together from the surrounding area and creating long-term friendships and a sense of belonging. Once established, the plan is to play in leagues from September 2020.

Organiser Somayeh Caesar said: "Please come and join us as we hope to engage a diverse team of girls who will have an opportunity to gain a greater love for the wonderful game of football." For more information email Somayeh at girls@lymoregardensfc.com

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Close to nature: Monkey Puzzle children are welcomed to the allotments by plotholder Cathy Schling.

We learn a lot from the allotments

By Dilan Dogan

Monkey Puzzle Nursery pre-schoolers recently made a trip to East Finchley Allotments. The journey there was exciting as we walked past lots of our local shops. The children pointed out places that they often visit such as Poseidon for fish and chips, Costa Coffee and also the New Local Cafe.

They noticed Martin Primary School as they passed by and some of our older children were very happy to show their peers the new school they will be going to. At the entrance to the allotments we were welcomed by Cathy Schling, who has a plot and was our tour guide for the day. Cathy being a retired teacher was a great help as she was able to support us in educating the children about growing things.

Awesome experience

They were in awe of how big

the allotments were and of all the plants, vegetables and fruit growing around. It was brilliant for them to see everything growing naturally and think what fun it could be to grow things themselves. Some said that they do gardening in their own back yards and enthusiastically explained all about it to their friends.

The concept of growing your own food can be so exciting, providing a sense of achievement and pride. It gives the children

a different outlook on fruit and vegetables, rather than just seeing them stacked up on a shelf in the supermarket. Food for thought! There were wonderful ideas and experiences shared between their friends and certainly lots of happy memories made. Towards the end, the children picked blueberries off the bushes to collect, wash and enjoy for a snack. We will be going for regular visits with different groups of children and we can't wait to go back.