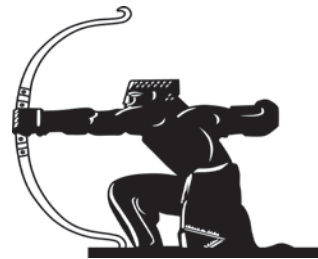


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Ground level: Cub scouts explore Long Lane Pasture in extreme close-up

Scouts hunt small critters on mini safari

By Joshua Thomas, 1st Finchley Scout Group

In a break from our usual meetings at the scout hut, 1st Finchley Beavers, Cubs and Scouts spent a spring evening at Long Lane Pasture, our local green space, tucked away off the main road.

The Cubs were kept busy with their own bug-hunting kits, scooping up all sorts of different snails, slugs and insects. They replicated the insects' natural environments inside the jars whilst they peered through magnifying glasses.

With thanks to Maureen Delandro of the Pasture committee, a tank of tadpoles and a large frog were also of great interest. At the end everything was returned to where we found it.

The Scout meeting was occupied by a game. In small groups they were challenged to find a collection of symbols across the pasture, corresponding to a colour on the map. This sent them looking in every



Pond life: Young Cubs enjoying the wildlife haven

Magic moments from two jubilees

Last month we invited you to share your Jubilee memories to mark the Queen's 70 years on the throne. Here, reader **Simone Wood** recalls being at the Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1977 and 2002.

In 1977 I was 15 years old and visiting my mother in London from boarding school. On the morning of the Jubilee procession, my mother asked "Would you like to see The Queen today?" Of course I replied that I would and so on a whim she called for a black cab. When the cabbie enquired "Where to?" she replied "Anywhere we can see the Queen!"

The cabbie took us to Ludgate Hill, dropped us on a crowded pavement and just asked them to "make space for the young lady", which they did. A woman even handed me a small Union Jack on a stick saying "You'll need this luv".



Royal handshake: Simone's daughter greets Prince Charles

Soon the spectacle of the parade started to pass us by and it became clear, from the wash of noise that reached us from the crowd ahead of us, that the Queen was approaching. Suddenly everyone was whooping and hollering and waving their flags madly and the most magnificent gleaming golden coach passed us by.

Everything seemed to be in slow motion as I watched the Queen gently wave her hand in acknowledgement of us. I had to fight the urge to just reach out. Then, no sooner had she come, than she was gone and the roar around me subsided to an excited chitter chatter of people expressing their opinions of what they had just seen.

What I remember most about the day, was just how happy and excited everyone was. It was the first time I had experienced a crowd and the notion of us all coming together for the same reason, intent and experience was very visceral and real to me. The collective togetherness and joy that I felt that day stayed with me for quite a long time.

It was a day to never forget. When it came to the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, I had children of my own aged 12 and aged nine. I felt it only fitting that they have their own experience of a Jubilee in their childhoods, as I'd had. So on the day of the procession we got up early and headed from East Finchley tube to Green Park and chose a spot on The Mall near where it curves in front of Buckingham Palace.

At one point out of the blue, someone whispered "It's Prince Charles!" When suddenly he was in view, not only was he on our side of the road but he was shaking hands with the crowd and not only that, he was almost in front of us! I was standing behind my eldest daughter and just said to her "Stick out your hand, stick out your hand!" which she promptly did.

She did a good job of catching the eye of the Prince, who looked directly at her whilst delivering a firm handshake. It was quite a moment and one that she has never forgotten, just like my own Jubilee moment 25 years earlier.

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corner as they raced against the other teams.

It was great to be outside on a warm evening. I wonder how many others know about this hidden pocket of greenery, just opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3.

3, 2, 1... go!
The annual Race the Neighbours 10km run between East Finchley and Muswell Hill returns on Sunday 5 June. Hundreds of runners will take part in the friendly challenge, setting off from Cherry Tree Wood, East Finchley, at 9.30am.

Boot sale
The monthly Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 25 June from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p with refreshments available. For information, contact: 020 8368 8180.

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