

Your news

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Friendly fundraiser: The two teams of dads in Ukrainian colours for their charity clash. Photo Mike Coles

Footy dads play for Ukraine

By Matt Robinson

With anticipation growing for the potential Champions League qualification decider between Tottenham and Arsenal on 12 May, residents of East Finchley got to witness a much more laudable North London derby last month.

Arranged as 'A Game for Ukraine' to raise funds for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, a full team of East Finchley dads who play Wednesday-night football at Powerleague took on the East Finchley dads who play Wednesday-night football at The Archer Academy.

The event was the brainchild of Richard Meier who plays with two Ukrainians in his regular Powerleague game, Daniel Ivashchenko and Oleksandr Hodlevskyi. Oleksandr came over from Ukraine when

the war started and is currently living with his cousin.

Like many of us, Richard felt he wanted to do something to help those suffering from the war so he booked a pitch at the neutral ground of Christ's College, East End Road, on Easter Monday.

Playing in Ukrainian blue the Powerleague Dads took an early lead in the first minute with, fittingly, an excellently taken goal from Oleksandr. The Archer Dads in Ukrainian yellow then pulled back in an exciting game that finally fin-

ished 7-3 to the Archer dads.

At the time of writing, the event had raised £1,725, smashing the £1,000 target originally set. Donations are still very much welcome at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AGame4Ukraine or by using this QR code



Tell us what's on

Does your group, school or club have an event you'd like to tell our readers about? *The Archer* offers a free listing for fundraising and other non-commercial events taking place in the N2 area or nearby.

Our What's On column was suspended during the pandemic but we'll bring it back once events pick up again. Meanwhile we're happy to mention events throughout the paper.

Email your listing to news@the-archer.co.uk, marking it 'What's On'. We can't guarantee publication but we'll consider every submission received. Find our monthly deadlines at the top of page 2 of this and every edition. We look forward to hearing from you.

Emergency response teams in action at home

By David Melsome

When Storm Eunice's 70mph winds wreaked havoc across large parts of the country in February, Highgate-based volunteer Abbas Dhanani found himself helping vulnerable residents left homeless or without power.

As a volunteer with the Serve On charity, Abb and his fellow search and rescue volunteers had deployed to Nepal in the wake of the 2015 earthquake, and to the Caribbean in the wake of Hurricane Irma, but when Storm Eunice hit their help was needed in a different way.

National volunteer network

Serve On is developing and training a national network of volunteer Community Resilience Teams to support the emergency services and local authorities in their response to emergencies and major inci-



On duty: Emergency volunteer Abbas Dhanani, right, with a colleague

They worked alongside power company engineers across four counties in the south of Britain to identify affected communities and carry out welfare visits to ensure they could last until the electricity came back on.

Serve On Operations Director Dan Cooke said: "It is, as ever, humbling to see the efforts that people go to when others are in need."

dents like Storm Eunice.

People of all ages and from all walks of life are given training by experienced team leaders so that they can respond to emergencies like flooding, power cuts, missing person searches and many other incidents.

If you feel you have what it takes to join a Serve On team in London, no matter your experience level, find out more at serveon.org.uk

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