



**Market Place Playground - Design**  
 Disclaimer: This design is for illustrative purposes only and some details and equipment choices may change through the construction phase.



Natural adventure: The new play area design being shared by Friends of Market Place Playground

## Playground begins its transformation

By David Melsome

Work began last month on the transformation of the Market Place Playground, close to Holy Trinity Primary School and The Archer Academy. What was once a long-neglected play area will become a landscaped green space with all-new equipment.

The major milestone comes after three years of hard work and fundraising by the Friends of Market Place Playground, bringing in £400,000 from grants and donations to pay for the project.

Diggers moved in to remove the existing rubber and hard surfaces, which will be replaced by grass, sand, paths and planting. There will be seating, outdoor table tennis and mostly wood-based play equipment to match the more natural setting. Work is expected to continue until the summer.

Michelle Frith and Samantha Haycock, co-chairs of the

Friends group, said: "We want to thank the community for their patience and understanding during the construction phase, especially the immediate neighbours.

"We are also thinking of children who will have even fewer play options in East Finchley over the next few months. There are small parks at Prospect Ring and The Mead as well as Oak Lane green space and of course Cherry Tree Wood. We have a list of options that are a little further afield on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/friendsofmarketplaceplayground](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofmarketplaceplayground)

## Family shows at Artsdepot

Artsdepot in North Finchley has lined up a run of family productions for the Easter holidays and beyond.

Book Buzz takes place on Sunday 7 April and is free for all ages. It will feature a book swap, craft workshops, storytelling and a playwriting workshop.

On Monday 8 April, English Touring Opera visit with their production of *The Great Stink*, a family show about poo set in Victorian London. On Tuesday 9 April, Lego lovers can join The Brick People for lots of Lego-related activities.

On Thursday 11 April, *The Showstoppers' Kids Show* is an improvised musical show for children of all ages. Then on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 April, Babette Cole's subversive adventure *Princess Smartypants* comes to Artsdepot, adapted by the Wardrobe Ensemble.

For details and tickets visit [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk)

## Comedy stars come out for the Academy

The Archer Academy school is continuing its massive drive to raise funds for a new performing arts studio by hosting a comedy night this month at its site in Eagans Close, N2.

Top stand-up and former Archer Academy parent Ian Stone will host the star-studded event, introducing Ria Lina from *Mock the Week* and *The Now Show*, Ninia Benjamin from *3 Non-Blondes*, and Finlay Christie, from *8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown*.



Monday 29 April at 7.30pm and is open to the whole community. Tickets can be purchased via the Archer Academy website or [tinyurl.com/archerraisetherooft](http://tinyurl.com/archerraisetherooft)



The school has run several comedy nights in the past which have always been huge sell-out successes. It is already over halfway towards achieving its goal to build a bespoke studio, having raised £270,000 through grants, donations and contributions from parents and students.

This latest 'Raise The Roof Comedy Night' takes place on



Host: Ian Stone (top) and funny folk, Ninia Benjamin and Ria Lina

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