

# Huge numbers turn out to meet Archer Academy head teacher

With the Archer Academy set to open in the Institute Arts Centre in September, more than 250 people squeezed into Brookland Junior Hall at the end of last year to get a first glimpse of Mick Quigley, the new headteacher of the Archer Academy, and hear about his plans for the school.

At a packed public meeting, Mick talked about his experience, set out his vision and plans for the curriculum, and answered a series of questions from prospective parents. Topics ranged from his approach to pastoral care and SEN, to whether he himself would be doing any teaching (he will, particularly in the early days and plans to teach every year 7 class so he can really get to know the pupils in his care).

The meeting was a fantastic end to an exciting year for the Archer Academy team, which has seen them go from submitting a proposal to confirming their headteacher and initial premises in an unbelievably short amount of time. And 2013 is set to be even

more of a landmark year, with the school set to welcome its first 150 pupils in September.

The team announced in November that the Institute Arts Centre in East Finchley will be the Archer Academy's first home and that the school would be working in partnership with the Institute to create a local hub of learning. As well as providing an excellent base for the school's first pupils, the deal also allows The Institute to continue to deliver a programme of courses for the foreseeable future.

The two organisations share many common values and had already begun preliminary discussions about working together long before the issue of premises arose. And once the Institute Arts Centre came on the market, it was considered an ideal solution by the Education Funding Agency, who are responsible for securing a site for the school. Contracts were signed at the end of 2012, and the two organisations are now finalising the specific details of



how the partnership will work in practice.

Avis Johns, the school's chair of governors, said afterwards: "2012 was a brilliant year all round but confirming our premises and introducing Mick to our community were definite highlights for us.

"We always knew Mick would be the perfect person to engage with parents as we start

to build our school and seeing him in action really confirmed that we've made the right choice.

"We're also delighted to have secured the Institute Arts Centre, which we know will provide our pupils with a superb base from which to start their secondary education. The vision for our school has grown out of our commitment to the community and we are thrilled that our

partnership with The Institute will allow us to realise our aim to create a hub for learning, bringing benefit for many years to come."

Mick has been working closely with Avis and her team since his appointment was announced, and officially takes up his post at the end of January. His first task is to recruit his senior leadership team as well as formalising his plans for the curriculum and making sure everything is ready for his first intake of pupils.

As he himself puts it: "All my efforts, and those of the team behind me – not to mention the staff that I will be recruiting over the coming months – will be dedicated to providing the excellent school that our community has asked for and that our children deserve."

You can find out more about the school and apply for a September 2013 place, at [www.thearcheracademy.org.uk](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk). The deadline for applications is February 13 2013.

## LETTERS

Asmunds Place, NW11 7XG

Sir

In an article on the 2012 Trust Council elections, published in issue 111, you wrote, "To my mind the Trust needs your support now, not a kind of fifth column within its own membership."

Further on you say that what you write represents your "personal views" and conclude, "I would now urge you to vote for Claire Calman, an independent candidate who puts, by supporting the objectives of the Trust, her responsibilities to the Suburb first, and is not 'concerned' with other things."

In a letter published in the following issue, 112, we pointed out to you that it is neither appropriate nor wise for the editor of the newspaper of the Residents Association to support one of the resident candidates and reject the other in grounds, such as, that she is a representative of the Concerned Residents to whom you refer as "a kind of fifth column".

This type of language, with respect to those residents who oppose certain policies or actions of the current Trust Council, is, in our view, inappropriate, unequal and undemocratic to say the least.

From a general point of view your italicised answer to my previous letter has led a number of your readers to the conclusion that you have some difficulty in appreciating:

That it is not "quite clear", as you say, that an article signed by the editor represents anything other than the editor's views.

That to the extent that the Suburb News and other publications of the RA are "self-supporting through their advertising revenue" is due to the fact that advertisers expect to be rewarded by your resident-readers who indirectly – or directly by means of their subscription – pay, inter alia, for your salary.

Yours on behalf of the Concerned Residents,  
Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

The editor would like to again thank Dr Papadopoulos for the expression of his opinion. Every edition carries the following words "Views expressed in Suburb News are not necessarily those of the publishers the Hampstead Garden Residents Association." In addition it should be pointed out to Dr Papadopoulos and the Concerned Residents that the RA is a voluntary organisation and that those who sit on our council and committees, including the publications committee, those who deliver the Directory and Suburb News and our litter collectors all do their bit without payment. We, including the SN Editor, are all volunteers and give our time, energy and expertise free of charge because of our love of the Suburb in which we live.

## Children take to the stage in traditional nativity plays



For Free Church adults, Christmas begins with the Advent Carol Service in early December. But for the children and young people, it begins with the Christmas Tree Gift Service in the middle of December.

It was a lovely afternoon for the audience and for the actors aged from five to nineteen. At

the end even the babies in the audience went up to light the candles on the tree and £550 was collected for the Islington Family Action 'Young Carers' Service which supports children and young people aged 7 to 17 years, who are providing care for a family member.

JENNY STONHOLD



At St Jude's on Christmas Eve Andrew Miller once again produced a wonderful nativity play ably performed by members of the Sunday School. A large congregation of adoring parents helped swell the collection for St John's Church in Guyana, with which the church and Sunday school has long been connected, and enjoyed the show and the magical Christmas Eve atmosphere.

## Believe it or not – it has been wetter

Watching the television or reading the papers, one might be forgiven for thinking that everywhere in England (they have been careful not to say Britain as it would annoy many Scots and Northern Irish who have had a rather dry year) has had the highest rainfall since records began. As usual, Hampstead Garden Suburb (or North London, as earlier years were recorded in Mill Hill) is different. Yes, our rainfall has been extremely high and we have seen the results in our gardens, our local roads, or the mud on the Heath. However, this has not been the highest

annual total using figures back to 1980, or the more common 30 year average.

Two years stand out as having considerably more rainfall than 2012. 2002 had 41.6 inches and 2000 had 41.3 inches. 2001, at 36.7 inches, had almost as much as 2012 and 1998 had 36.7 inches. So there was a cluster of wet years with around 25% more than the usual mean annual total of 30 inches. This does not necessarily mean that a similar pattern will occur again. Much research would be needed to posit this and, in any case, global warming will change patterns.

The other part of the explanation for the exceptionally difficult weather in 2012 for farmers and gardeners was the dry winter that preceded the April start to our wet summer, autumn and early winter. Rainfall for October 2011-March 2012, at 8.6 inches, was only 53% of the norm.

It was the end of a year that had been much drier than usual and so we had the threat of hosepipe bans in spring.

Weather is always interesting, even to those who find the figures in this column rather boring. We will be talking about the weather this year, too, but perhaps let us hope with rather less concern than last year.

DIANA IWI

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