

## Green-fingered pupils win praise

GREEN-FINGERED pupils from a Hackney school have scooped capital growth awards from the Mayor of London|Boris Johnson for their great grow-your-own ideas.

Baden Powell School in Ferron Road, Lower Clapton grabbed glory at the inaugural capital growth schools competition.

It was named Hackney's most creative food grower, finishing runner-up among schools across London with its garden which encourages the re-use and recycling of waste

More than 50 primary schools have been growing food over the past six months as part of the competition, designed to help fuel a passion for "growing your own" in pupils, parents and teachers alike while creating new or expanded plots.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "Bravo to these amazing young food growers in Hackney. The range of imaginative ideas shown to our judges was quite astonishing."

## Triumph for young film-makers

FILM-MAKERS from a Hackney-based youth project were praised at an awards ceremony.

Seven young people from Fairbridge, a charity working with disadvantaged youngsters in Bayford Street, Hackney Central, produced a short film called Slam Drunk, which was nominated in the Under 17s screenplay category at the Lighthouse Film and Arts Awards 2010.

They missed out on the top prize at the awards ceremony at The Troxy in Tower Hamlets on Thursday.

Talent Studio media trainer Roy Heath, who worked with the group, said: "We know we were up against some very slick competition, so even though we didn't win the award we still count this as a triumph."



Youngsters practise their football skills (top); City Bells saxophone quartet (left); MP Meg Hillier (above) enjoys a cup of tea with De Beauvoir residents

## Party in the park is hot stuff

by Emma Bartholomew

**DE BEAUVOIR** Party in the Park brought out the crowds on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far.

Organised by The De Beauvoir Association, the get-together in De Beauvoir Square proved a feast of fun.

Association member Paul Bolding said: "It was great. We had more people than ever."

"The point is to provide an afternoon of fun for families of De Beauvoir, which is socially a mixed area, and it's all done by a small committee of hard-working people who have an interest in social cohesion."

MP for Hackney South Meg Hillier went along with her baby and the speaker of Hackney, Cllr Sally Mulready, drew the raffle.

# Join us for our 10th Anniversary Celebrations

**The award winning Anna Fiorentini Theatre & Film School celebrates its 10th Anniversary next year. Join us for the forthcoming term and be part of our Gala Variety Performance taking place at the Hackney Empire in April.**

The school originally opened in Hackney in 2001 and now has over 165 students aged 7-18, many of whom have gone on to secure professional work on TV, Film and in theatre, including Charlie Jones who currently plays Ben Mitchell and Belinda Owusu who plays Libby Fox in the BBC series EastEnders.

As well as providing professional training, the aim of the school is to also provide a safe and supportive environment for all children to explore their creativity regardless of what career path they eventually choose to follow.

Every week students follow a time-table of Drama, Singing, Dance, Film and Set/Costume Design all taught under the guidance of top industry professionals. Students get to work with a variety of casting directors, producers and TV directors. They also get the opportunity to be considered for the agency to audition for professional work. As well as weekly classes, students are given the opportunity to take part in Voice Idol, Drama and Stars in their Eyes competitions, culminating in a yearly Oscar Night.

From September students start rehearsals for their Hackney Empire showcase that performs to an audience of casting directors, TV and Film producers and celebrities as well as family and friends.

The school has recruited some excellent teaching staff including: Mike Burnside, (actor in The Bill, Bergerac, the RSC), Mark Short, (choreographer of Tina Turner, Peter Andre, Liberty X), Michael Buffong, (director of EastEnders, Holby City, Casualty and Coronation Street), Jacob Murray, (director at the Royal Exchange Manchester). Celebrities such as Joseph Marcell, (Jeffery in Fresh Prince of Bel Air) and Warren Mitchell, (Alf Garnett) have also been amongst special guests to give master classes at this prestigious school.

"I am so pleased I am not starting again in showbiz! The talent I saw from this school was superb." - Barbara Windsor

To gain a place at the school potential students must attend a Taster Day to assess their level of enthusiasm and potential. To book a place at our next Taster Day please visit [www.annafiorentini.com](http://www.annafiorentini.com).

**Free Taster Day!**  
Please call or visit website to reserve your place.  
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