

Fellow Greens and GLA colleagues celebrate with Noel (left) in truckles bar in WC1.
Photo by Erini Rodis.

A Green A.M. Light for Noel

By Erini Rodis

Noel Lynch, that quiet unassuming man in the bric-a-brac shop, was celebrating a new development with friends and colleagues at Truckles, in WC1 on Friday 9 May.

He has been appointed as one of three Green Party Assembly Members who will be representing the whole of London at the Greater London Assembly. Part of his job is to scrutinise the activities of Mayor Ken Livingstone, challenging as the need arises.

Born in County Limerick, Noel's political career began when he stood as an Independent candidate in Ireland in 1969. He later moved to North London, standing for the Tottenham Green Party in 1990, and going on to represent East Finchley Greens in 1994, 1998 and 2002 after settling here in 1991.

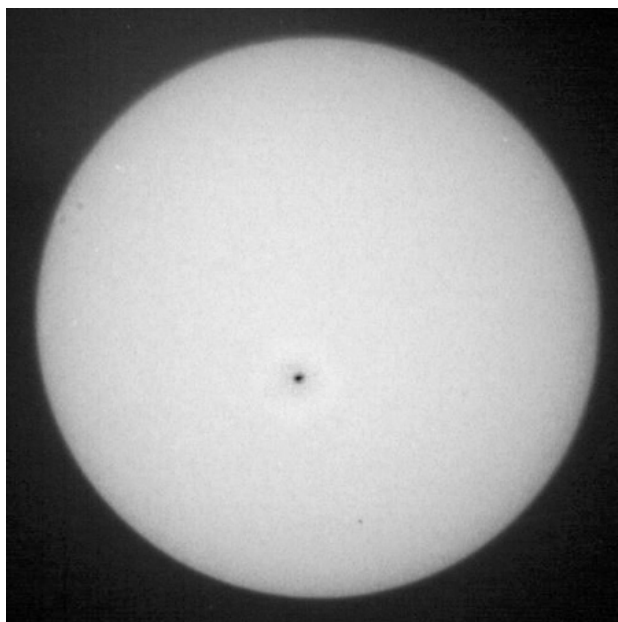
Living by the motto "think global, act local", he has worked for the local advice service and was the one who lobbied Barnet council to set up the credit union. If that wasn't enough he also happens to be one of the four founder members of *THE ARCHER!*

Local Time

"I like to think of myself as a catalyst for local action", he says, announcing the imminent launch of a London-wide Green Party newspaper, "to promote a general culture of self-help and ethical investment." Noel is also looking forward to developing time-banks, "a scheme whereby people donate time to provide services which are not funded, like befriending those in convalescence ... We are great believers in local action," says Noel Lynch MA, "...within walking distance!"

If you have any suggestions, questions, or would simply like to visit the GLA building, call

Carol on 020 7983 4411, or log on to the GLA website on www.london.gov.uk.



Transit of Mercury observed from N2

By John Dearing

In the morning of 7 May 2003, the planet Mercury crossed the face of the Sun. The weather was fine, enabling this interesting event, which occurs about every 10 years, to be observed and photographed from East Finchley.

Mercury could be seen a small black circle, set against the bright face of the sun, moving slowly across the north-eastern corner, taking a little over 4 hours in all. The picture was taken at about halfway through the event, and also shows below Mercury a fair sized sunspot, dark in the centre, with a slightly brighter ring around it.

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Tree Wardens Take a Bough

By Daphne Chamberlain

Why do nurseries use white plastic to protect their baby trees? Because dark plastic would inhibit root growth. Don't just take my word for this. I heard it from a couple of tree wardens – Pam Kent of Hamilton Road and Ann Hart, Barnet Wardens Secretary.

Encouraged by the Tree Council – a national UK charity – wardens started springing up in the 1990s. When Barnet Council offered their cooperation, about 100 tree-lovers turned up at Avenue House for training. Ann was one of them. She gained a certificate at the end of a course which included tree biology and identification, instruction in planting and care of seedlings, information about threats and diseases, and aspects of law.

This does not give her any special authority. Barnet Council is still responsible for maintaining local trees, but they now work in co-operation with volunteer wardens on an annual programme.

Wardens count trees to ensure a healthy balance, check on condition, and help with work on the ground. Recently they tackled Coppetts Wood, by the north Circular, which was overrun by sycamores. "We never lop trees ourselves," said Ann, "We don't use saws, though we are allowed bill-hooks to clear undergrowth. Barnet provides tools, shows us how to use them, and provides a supervisor to work with us."

Branching out

Most manual work consists of removing undergrowth, mulching, and rearing seedlings. Their particular baby is the Millennium Wood, planted in Lyttelton Playing Fields to commemorate every child born in Barnet in Millennium Year. Wardens tend these little trees, as well as growing others

for general use in their Suburb allotment. Seeds are gathered on annual collecting days.

"We have outings too," said Pam. "We go to places like Syon Park arboretum and the Council's nursery in Cambridgeshire."

Barnet Tree Wardens have been an independent organisation since 1999. They concentrate on parks and woods, unlike the Agenda 21 Greening Group, who are mainly concerned with planting street trees. The group welcomes all tree-lovers. Super-fitness not required! Contact Ann Hart on 020 8883 1710 for details.



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