



# Friends of Cherry Tree Wood say thank you

By Anne Lalaguna, Secretary, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

At the recent Nature Walk held on Sunday 11 May through Cherry Tree and Highgate Woods, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood took the opportunity to say a big Thank You to Rachel Keen, Project Manager from Countryside Management Service for her invaluable help, advice and inspirational enthusiasm in helping the Friends over the past few years with the 5 Year Greenspaces Action Plan.

Sadly, Barnet Council have now withdrawn funding to CMS. The CMS is a body which works in Barnet and Hertfordshire to help communities enjoy, care for and develop their green spaces. The 5-year GAP is less than half way through, but it is already having a positive effect on the Wood with new trees, wild flowers and shrubs planted and coppicing having taken place. The real value of CMS is that they enable people of all ages to become involved with their local environment. For example, the Friends were hoping to work with them to explore how improvements to the playground can be funded. This year, CMS provided young oak trees, which have all now been planted in the Wood by volunteers. They have also introduced regular walks in the Wood, which have proved successful, and we were hoping to work with them on organising children's activities for this summer's East Finchley Festival.



Chairman of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood Ian Cormack presents Rachel Keen of Country Management Services with a token of appreciation. Photo by Diana Cormack

### Loss of funding

Barnet say they are saving £37,000 by withdrawing the money to CMS. Obviously, Council money is very limited but FOCTW believe that £37,000 represents remarkable value given the services which

CMS perform across the borough and the volunteers they help mobilise. Indeed, FOCTW doubt that there will be any cost saving in the medium term, given that a deterioration of the Borough's green spaces and the loss of voluntary help

is likely to result in essential maintenance costs increasing.

In spite of all this, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood remained undeterred and are presently exploring other ways of funding to complete the present Greenspaces Action Plan.

## Pride of East Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley had two nominees for the Palace Gardens Pride of North London Awards, presented last month. Neither of them has a clue who made the nominations, but would like to thank them all the same.

The Five Bells was up for Pub of the Year (won by The Rising Sun at Mill Hill). Landlord Pat O'Shaughnessy said, "Usually it's trouble when people want to speak to you. So it's nice to know there's someone out there I didn't upset! It was lovely to be nominated."

Pat, who has been at The Five Bells for 11 years on and off, enjoys East Finchley's famous 'village' atmosphere. He says that, while making necessary modernisations and improving provision for children, he would never want to change the character of his pub.

Lawrie Chivers of A1 Motors,

known for his involvement in the community, was nominated for the Local Hero award, but says, "I've still no idea why. So many people do so many things. It was fun going along though - there was a good meal and champagne, and then it was like the Oscars, with everyone waiting for the envelopes to be opened."

The awards, which covered the Barnet / Enfield area, were sponsored by Palace Gardens Shopping Centre and various businesses, and organised by The Press. Lawrie commented, "It's good to see another paper joining *THE ARCHER* in doing something positive for the community."

## Farmers' Market closes

The Friday morning farmers' market at Whetstone has been discontinued. As reported in last summer's *ARCHER*, stallholders generally were not happy with the level of support.

Some thought it would have been more successful if it had been held at the weekend, while others blamed the venue.

London Farmers Markets have not commented on the closure. *THE ARCHER* will investigate the latest market scene in the autumn.

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