



Northern Line work will disrupt woods

By David Attfield

Urgent repair work to the Northern line in East Finchley, expected to begin in January and to take 3-4 months, will have a major impact on Cherry Tree Wood.

The work is to reinforce the embankment from the High Road to the point where the line goes underground about 300 yards away. Although currently safe, the embankment is reported to be slowly crumbling, making repairs now essential.

The embankment is largely unnoticed by park users because it is covered with trees and other vegetation, much of which will be cut back or removed so that contractors can carry out piling work for the reinforcement.

The embankment will then be capped with a one-metre strip of concrete, covered in green netting to soften its appearance and deter graffiti taggers.

The work is being carried out on behalf of Tubelines, the private company now responsible for the maintenance of the Northern line. They warn that the appearance of the embankment from the wood will be quite stark, at least until vegetation has a chance to grow back.

Access plans

Chris Bull, of Tubelines, who is co-ordinating the works, has given assurances to the representatives of

the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood that no vehicles or heavy equipment will be brought into the park. He hoped that all access could be gained from the High Road by the railway bridge.

Whilst detailed plans are still to be agreed, he envisaged that the current Park House car park could be used as an equipment store and that one bus stop opposite the tube station might need to be relocated by a few yards.

Other embankment work

Meanwhile, maintenance work on the Northern Line embankment between Church Lane and Stanley Road bridges will continue for 12 weeks from 14 November. The contractors are using Stanley Road Field as a site compound. Work is scheduled to take place from 8am to 6pm on Mondays to Fridays, and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Trains should run as usual, and pedestrians will have normal access to the bridges.

The London Underground Customer Service Helpline - 0845 330 9880 - is open for enquiries from 8am to 8pm, weekdays and weekends.

Just the ticket

By Diana Cormack

A local resident has won a victory many of us can only dream of - having a parking ticket rescinded by Barnet Council. Eva Frost has proved that perseverance sometimes pays off.

Eva, of Fordington Road, had been shopping for her sister, who was marooned with a broken leg in her first floor flat in Park Hall Road. In the time Eva took to go up to the flat and return with a visitor's parking voucher, a penalty notice had been issued and there was no warden in sight.

Eva told *THE ARCHER* that she phoned the council immediately but was told any complaint had to be made in writing. This she did, but to no avail. When she asked on the phone what she could do to prevent such a situation arising again, Eva was advised to make sure she had a voucher before visiting people or avoid visiting during restricted times (10am-6.30pm at present) or leave the car with its engine running (but not in a parking bay) while she went to get a voucher.

However, Eva felt very strongly that she was in the right and decided to take the matter to the appeals court, which decided that no contravention had taken place.

"People shouldn't be frightened off by thinking that if you lose you have to pay double," she said. "If you have a case, go for it."

Earlier this year, many readers got in touch with *THE ARCHER* about the activities of local traffic wardens. Residents complained of parking tickets being issued in what they regarded as unrea-

sonable circumstances and of finding the penalty still stood even after they complained to Barnet Council. Eva's success may encourage others.

Isabel Douglas

From the start of December, Isabel Douglas is moving out of her High Road salon to new premises at Oriol Hair & Beauty, in Highgate High Street, Highgate Village.

The trichology clinic will remain as it is, specialising in scalp and hair problems, and organic colouring will still be available. Isabel will be working on the lower part of the Oriol salon, Nova will be upstairs in the main salon specialising in cut and colour.

Appointments for Isabel can be made on 020 8444 3639 and for Nova on 020 8341 2914 / 2751.

A life full of joy

By John Pickering, deputy headteacher, Martin Junior School

Martin Junior School has lost one of its most loved members of staff. The death of Lynn Cornelius after a long fight against cancer has left the school devastated. Lynn will be missed by her husband Ed and daughter Aimee as well as the staff and generations of children who went through her care.

Lynn was a vibrant, lively, positive character. She was always immaculately dressed and conveyed an infectious air that carried everyone along with her. I remember her first day in the school when her appearance made a mark instantly. She quickly made her presence felt and over the 15 years she was at the school left an impression on everyone who came into contact with her.

Lynn was SENCO at the school where her caring approach to children's needs endeared her to everyone. Her main passion at school was art and her skill and ability as a teacher of the subject brought out the artist in all the children she taught.

I worked closely with Lynn and had the good fortune to accompany her on many school journeys where her professionalism and resourcefulness could turn the direst situation into a success.

I remember once being stranded in a tiny visitors' centre in Hastings Country Park with Lynn and 60 children. The rain was hammering down and there was no way that we could leave the confines of the hut. Lynn suggested that we had a meditation session which kept the children enthralled initially but as their patience waned Lynn had them preparing sketches about the week's experiences until eventually the coach came to rescue us.

It was tragic that Lynn was taken ill in her last year at Martin Junior School and was unable to celebrate her 60th birthday in May and her retirement in July. Lynn's life was full of joy and whilst her death brings great sadness to so many people there are so many wonderful things to remember and so much to celebrate. She will be greatly missed.



Lynn Cornelius.

Photo supplied by Martin School

Stanley Field fate to be decided in New Year

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet Council leader Brian Salinger has said that the future of Stanley Field will be decided "in the New Year".

Roger Chapman, Chair of the East Finchley Community Development Trust, and Philip King, from The Walks Residents Association, told *THE ARCHER* that Councillor Salinger had dismissed Stanley Field as weed-covered, and unlikely to be used again for sport.

Mr King said: "He called it an under-used resource, opened up for development by the demolition of the Herbert Wilmot Centre. Citing Government housing targets, he told us that East Finchley was under-developed in housing compared with other parts of Barnet. Council Officer Dave Stephens added that it was unsuitable for a sports centre because it was hard to find, and had parking problems."

In contrast, Roger Reed, London and South East Regional Facilities Manager for the Football Association, gave written support to the sports plan. He is convinced that the site could become a stand-alone sports development centre, unlike Grahame Park's new artificial

grass pitch and the new pavilion at Princes Park FC by the Welsh Harp. Yet Barnet has had Football Foundation investment for both these projects. Councillor Salinger was given a copy of Mr Reed's letter.

The National Playing Fields Association backs the plan too, saying: "What you are aiming to achieve is truly superb."

The Development Trust points out that Barnet Council took away the means to maintain the field, and that road signing would make it easier to find. It is in the middle of East Finchley, in walking distance for most potential users, and a recent questionnaire showed strong local support for keeping it as a sports facility.

East Finchley is a priority area for recreational development, described in Barnet's Sports Strategy as suffering from limited community recreation facilities.

So will East Finchley save its field for the community of today and tomorrow, or will Barnet sell out to the housing developers?

A library in your own home

By Sheila Armstrong
Library users in Barnet can now use library facilities without ever leaving home. Using the improved online catalogue readers can see which branch library has the book, CD, video or DVD they want, and even see if it's on the shelves.

There is also a link to the online bookseller Amazon so that books and products not in stock at the library can be bought online. Books can be renewed online too.

Barnet Libraries also told *THE ARCHER* that a new service called 24-7 has just been launched, giving online access to reference books such as Encyclopaedia Britannica, Dictionary of National Biography and Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians, amongst other books and databases. Barnet say their coverage will be the second best in London. Check with your local library for a special password to access this service, then visit www.libraries.barnet.gov.uk

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