



Shoes, Trainers, Sandals, Bags and Luggage

Complete Repair Service by a craftsman  
Same day if required

Key Cutting

1 Manor Park Rd. N2, behind 88 Church Lane, opposite Trinity Church  
Tel: 07956 329 150 Open 12-8pm (not Wednesdays)

# THE ARCHER



Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 8JA. www.the-archer.co.uk

## Acorn antiques

By Diana Cormack

To avoid further danger to the public, Barnet Council is proposing to cut down some of the oak trees that overhang the children's playground in Cherry Tree Wood. This is because a large bough broke off and fell across part of the play area last Autumn. It seems obvious that any such work should be completed before the planned improvements to the play park begin, which should be in April.



Oak trees near the playground in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo by Tony Roberts

The much-admired trees can grow to a ripe old age but, unfortunately, their ancient beauty can mask potential problems. Local tree warden and ARCHER team member, Pam Kent, explains what these are and why this is the best time of year to deal with them:

## Oak trees

By Pam Kent

The latin name for the Oak Tree Genus is *Quercus* and there are over 300 known species across Europe and North America. The most common in Britain is the English Oak and it is this variety which appears in Cherry Tree Wood.

Other species most common to Britain are the Sessile Oak and the Holm Oak. All bear flowers and fruit; the male flowers appear as catkins and the female flowers as tiny clusters of spikes with reddish centres. The fruits, of course, are the acorns, avidly collected in September by squirrels

who bury them for winter storage and unwittingly aid the growth of new trees.

### Oak wilt

Although oaks are very durable – some grow to a height of 120ft with a girth of 50ft – they do sometimes succumb to Oak Wilt which occurs from a dangerous liaison between a beetle and a fungus; resulting in a problem similar to Dutch Elm Disease. This, once it has taken hold, can be very virulent, and is possibly the cause of the recent weakness of the trees around the playground in Cherry Tree Wood.

As with all other trees,

the best time for pruning is before new leaves or shoots appear, giving lighter and easier access to problem areas – also encouraging regeneration where necessary whilst the sap is rising.

### Planting for the future

Seed Gathering Sunday this year is 9 October, when tree wardens everywhere collect seeds to grow into trees of the future. Perhaps we should organise a collecting team in Cherry Tree Wood to gather a few acorns, take them home to grow and eventually replant the young trees in a safe place in the Wood to replace those in danger of demolition!!

## Coldfall Wood plans are taking shape

By Ann Bronkhorst

At their February meeting, the friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Field heard the latest news of the Heritage Lottery funding for the regeneration of the wood (see November Archer).

From April 2006 funding will be awarded for at least two years. Current ideas include restoration of paths; proper information boards; a nature trail with numbered posts; talks; and guided walks. On 21 August this year a guided walk will be led by David Bevan, Haringey Conservation Officer and a key figure behind the movement

for the wood's regeneration.

### Woodland views

Pollution of the stream has long been a concern but Thames Water believe the problem 'bad plumbing' has been resolved. Further measures to combat pollution will be tried, such as reed beds and strategic coppicing to allow in light to the reeds.

A group called The Sensory Trust will organise a survey of local opinion. So don't be surprised if, as you jog, dog-walk or bird-watch in the wood this spring, someone with a clipboard asks for your views on the future of Coldfall Wood.

### SECUREBASE

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Your Security problems Solved!

- Safes Supplied, Fitted, Opened, Repaired
- Wall, Underfloor, Free-Standing, Fire Protection Cabinets
- Safe Keys Cut



ESTABLISHED 1988

0800 279 0791

112 High Road, East Finchley N2

www.securebase.co.uk

### MUSWELL HILL BOOKSHOP

Now holds regular author readings and discussions. If you would like further information or to join our mailing list contact us at:



72 FORTIS GREEN ROAD, N10

020 8444 7588

# STEWART DUNCAN

OPTICIANS, SINCE 1962

- EYE EXAMINATIONS
- DESIGNER EYEWEAR
- CONTACT LENSES
- LATE NIGHT
- DYSLEXIA CLINIC
- DVLA APPROVED
- OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

020 8883-2020

126 HIGH ROAD, EAST FINCHLEY

