



A very special lady

THE ARCHER is sad to report the death of Noula Argyrou, who passed away in the North London Hospice on 6 May after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

Noula lived in Abbots Gardens with her husband Angelos and their three children Maria, Andrea and Peter. Her parents Petros and Ouriana Christodoulou brought Noula to live in Leicester Road at the age of three, along with her brothers Mario, Akis and George.

As a child, Noula attended Holy Trinity School, where her daughters received their primary education and where Peter is still a pupil. Noula returned to the school as a learning support assistant, but spread her talents into many other areas such as the after-school netball club. She was immensely popular with all the children, who enjoyed her interest, involvement and humour both in and out of the classroom.

Noula always had time to listen. She was calm, dependable and resourceful and was ready to give a helping hand whatever the task. Her presence at the school is sorely missed.

Many of her colleagues attended the funeral at St John the Baptist in Wightman Road, N8, on 17 May. The church was packed with family and friends who heard how, at secondary school, Noula had been a lively girl, loved by fellow pupils and very keen on sport, particularly team games.

As an adult, Noula devoted herself to bringing up her children. She was the hub of her extended family, bringing them together for food, fun and happiness at the gatherings she organised. They have



Noula Argyrou

received numerous messages of condolence for the death of a daughter, sister, aunt and cousin at the early age of 43.

Noula showed incredible strength and fortitude throughout her illness. She was a respected, loved and much-valued lady, described as "special" by all who knew her. Noula was laid to rest in St Pancras Cemetery, East Finchley.

Seeing the wood and the trees

By Ann Bronkhorst

We listened for the sound of a woodpecker as wisps of smoke from a charcoal burn drifted through the trees. Small caterpillars hung from delicate threads in the leaf-canopy above us; beneath our feet even smaller seeds were waiting for light to reach the soil so they could germinate.

Small details and their significance were emphasised by David Bevan, former Haringey Conservation Officer, as he led a large group through Coldfall Wood on Sunday 14 May. Of course, he gave us an overview of the history of this fragment of ancient woodland and outlined the plans for its future regeneration. The broad picture was more vivid and understandable, however, because of the details.

Three hundred flowers were counted this year on wood anemones that had not flowered until the surrounding trees were coppiced. Where light penetrates, the seed-bank in the soil responds and up come plants like willow herb and the unglamorous but essential brambles, providing food and habitats for insects and invertebrates. So, birds and small mammals find food and the woodland thrives.

Let there be light

Near the streams the contrast was clear: dismal bare ground lacking light versus glades full of varied life from the ground up. David described the intractable problems connected with the streams, natural and man-made, and the proposed solutions, including a reed bed to absorb pollution. It's hard to

believe, but the flooded north east corner of the wood, with its stranded shopping trolley and dank smell, is potentially an ecologically rich area.

In the heart of the wood we were shown a wild service tree with, encouragingly, its saplings nearby. Only found in old woodland, the tree bears brown fruit said to have treated mediaeval tummy upsets. Today few of us know the uses of woodland plants and supermarket blackberries are preferred to wild ones.

In past centuries, the wood was an economic resource, understood and thoroughly managed. David explained how and why coppicing was done, and Tracey Dorman demonstrated how charcoal was made. Hornbeam burns at a higher temperature than any other wood, producing excellent charcoal, a carbon-neutral fuel. As Tracey fed logs into her furnace (an oil drum on its side) the surrounding trees were re-absorbing the carbon from the smoke. As she said, it's a benign process.

The whole afternoon felt benign; the rain held off, the dogs explored contentedly and we came away with fascinating details (where to look for a jewel beetle) and a sense of the wood as a whole living organism.



At a time of water shortages and restrictions, the water company let it gush all weekend! Picture by John Dearing

Save water

This water leak close to Lewis Gardens gushed throughout one weekend in mid-May. Residents reported the leak on the Friday but it was not until the Monday that water officials sent workmen to stop the flood. Meanwhile, we are all being told to turn off our taps while we clean our teeth to conserve water.

World Cup at the Phoenix

The Phoenix Cinema will be screening two of England's World Cup games on its big screen. Fans will be able to watch England's opening group game against Paraguay on Saturday 10 June and then England's match against Trinidad & Tobago on Thursday 15 June.

Admission to these matches is free and will be available on a strictly first come, first served basis. It will not be possible to reserve places in advance and the cinema will keep to its seating capacity.

The Phoenix is keen to encourage everyone to see the World Cup in the comfortable surroundings of the cinema. It is a non-smoking, family-friendly venue, and snacks and refreshments will be available on the day.

Arts festival switches to autumn

The popular East Finchley Arts Festival is switching from June to October this year. Based around All Saints Church in Durham Road, the festival will be held from 5-15 October. Full details of events will follow in future editions of THE ARCHER.

Second rejection for church phone masts

By John Lawrence

A proposal to place three mobile phone masts in the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church has been thrown out for the second time.

Barnet Council's planning committee turned down the application on 27 April after rejecting the initial application back in December.

A group of parents and residents, many living close to the church in Church Lane, have staged a vociferous campaign against the phone masts, claiming they would present a potential

health risk to residents nearby.

The Parochial Church Council and Revd Laurence Hill, of Holy Trinity Church, are supporting the installation, which could generate an annual revenue of up to £10,000.

At the second planning committee meeting, QS4, who are the church's appointed agents, failed to convince planners that the bell tower was a suitable location for the three masts.

Anti-mast campaigner David Broome, of Church Lane, said residents were anxious to put the mast proposal behind them and start rebuilding community spirit with the help of the church.

He said: "We are under no illusion that this is the battle won but I would have thought that after two such emphatic application failures, the church must see just how much local and council opinion is against this proposed siting."

Farewell to Lawrie

By Frank Tymkow

A large number of members gathered at the East Finchley Constitutional Club to see the board of directors present engraved tankards to Lawrie Chivers and Norman Cude. The evening was great fun, with a buffet and disco being provided on this special occasion to mark Lawrie's retirement to the Isle of Wight and Norman's retirement as club secretary.

There is a big void to fill at the club and in East Finchley as a whole now that Lawrie has moved to Wroxal. A big figure in the community in more ways than one, Lawrie ran the former A1 Motor Stores shop in the High Road and always kept the flag flying for East Finchley.

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