



Embrace a tree

By David Attfield

If you were in Cherry Tree Wood on the morning of Sunday 22 January, you would have seen the curious spectacle of groups of children and adults seemingly throwing their arms around the trunks of trees.

What you were witnessing was a "TREESure hunt", an event organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to find the oldest tree in the wood.

Led by Ana Sanchez-Martin, the group was looping pieces of string and measuring tape around the trunks of trees to measure their age.

At the same time, a smaller but harder group of volunteers was assisting park keeper Chris

Ward in clearing the debris - mainly dumped garden waste - that has accumulated over the years along the Brompton Grove perimeter fence.

The events were attended by an enthusiastic crowd spanning a wide age range, some of whom took advantage of the newly opened Cherry Tree Wood café for hot drinks and snacks.

Following the success of these activities, the Friends of

Cherry Tree Wood are hoping to hold further events later in the year. If you would like information about the Friends, you can contact them by email at info@cherrytreewood.co.uk or by writing to 88 Summerlee Avenue, London N2 9QH.

And if you are wondering which is the oldest tree in the wood, it's the oak tree just off the path towards the café: estimated age 280 years.



Just getting the measure of it. Photo courtesy of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood



Olivia Chemutai Koimur, a star of the future. Photo by Helen Drake

A star in the making

By Helen Drake

Martin Junior School pupil Olivia Chemutai Koimur, aged 11, was featured on the front page of the Muswell Hill Journal in February when she became the first girl to win the Charlotte Coleman Scholarship at the North London Performing Arts Centre

Competing against 36 other hopeful children, Olivia explained that she had only had one rehearsal on the stage before the final performance, and that she felt "excited but nervous" when she stepped out in front of the large audience.

She knew her performance of "Roxy" from the musical *Chicago* must have been quite good as the audience gave a "loud cheer" when she had finished, but she didn't know she had won the scholarship until two weeks later when the letter arrived. Olivia said she felt "proud and relieved" to have won. She particularly wanted to thank her whole family for supporting her and for taking her to and from her after-school classes.

Olivia enjoys dancing, acting, and singing as well as

playing the guitar and drums and attends classes virtually every day at the North London Performing Arts Centre in St James' Lane, Muswell Hill. Winning the scholarship means that Olivia will have the fees for all her classes paid for a year.

Clearly a popular girl, Olivia was recently voted Captain of Fire, part of a new "house" system at Martin Junior School designed to encourage good behaviour.

Headteacher Maggie Driscoll said: "We are really proud of Olivia. Even as an infant she showed great talent in shows and assemblies. This has continued throughout her years at Martin Juniors. She has worked hard and been committed and this has really paid off. I'm sure she'll be a star in the future".

Schooled in the art of pampering

By Caroline Hunt

Holy Trinity School underwent an amazing transformation on 9 February for its first Indulgence Evening.

After the noise of busy school activity had died away, the school was transformed for the evening, with soft music, subtle lighting, and air scented by rose petals, providing the perfect ambience for relaxation.

Around 60 people came along to enjoy the range of pampering treatments that were on offer. Indian head massage and reflexology, eyebrow shaping and eyelash tinting, manicures and nail treatments, and the exotically named Hopi Ear Candles (a natural alternative to ear syringing) were provided by a team of local therapists, all of whom were kept busy by a steady stream of clients. In between treatments there was ample opportunity to relax

with herbal tea or fruit juice, or browse the stalls selling beautifully designed greetings cards and handmade jewellery.

Holy Trinity parents Sarah Tapp and Lucy Ormerod, a qualified aromatherapist, masterminded the evening. Sarah was delighted at the response and said: "It was good to see so many friends, as well as people from outside the school, chilling together in a relaxed atmosphere. It was also great to raise a bit of money for the school, and to see that all those sleepless nights paid off!"

The aim now is to make the Indulgence Evening a regular part of the Holy Trinity School calendar, involving even more therapists and a wider range of treatments.

Parking tariff reduced

Barnet Council has reduced its all-day parking tariff in the borough's car parks following complaints and comments from residents. The charge for parking in an off-street car park for more than 90 minutes has fallen by 25 per cent from £4 to £3.

The reduction, which was agreed by the Cabinet Resources Committee last November, took effect this month and applies to the borough's 12 medium and long-stay car parks.

Fees for stays of less than 90 minutes will remain the same and thus continue to be consistent with on-street tariffs.

Occupation rates at some off-street parking facilities have been falling and a contributory factor is thought to be the level of the long-stay charge. It is hoped that the new £3 all-day rate will encourage motorists to make greater use of the council car parks.

The two main off-street car parks in East Finchley are not council-owned. In Viceroy Close, behind Budgens supermarket, charges are £1 an hour. In the tube station car park, all-day bays are available for £2.50.

Bums on (new) seats

By Lucy Chamberlin

The Phoenix Cinema is nearing the £60,000 fundraising target that will enable it to install new seating.

At the time *The Archer* was going to press, the last few thousand pounds were due to be collected and work on the replacement seating was scheduled to begin.

Manager Paul Homer said the fundraising appeal had been a successful one, with popular, thought-provoking films shown during January and February boosting takings further.

Many of the previous furnishings in the High Road cinema had become threadbare, so it is hoped this latest investment will upgrade our local favourite, and make an enjoyable experience even more comfortable.

Although on half capacity for much of March while the work is carried out, the cinema will remain open throughout.

EFCDT
East Finchley Community Development Trust

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FULFILLING AND HELP THE EAST FINCHLEY COMMUNITY?

Our Volunteer Programme based at the Green Man Community Centre can help place you in a position that best suits you.

As well as being very fulfilling, volunteering can help you learn new skills, enhance your job prospects and meet new people.

We have a number of East Finchley based voluntary organisations who would really like to hear from you.

For more information please call Margaret for a friendly chat on 020 8883 4916.