



## Healthy eating in the park

By Diana Cormack

The café in Cherry Tree Wood is open again and is being run by Sally-Anne Wigfield, who lives in Beresford Road. Sally has worked part-time in Natural Choice, the health food store at 105 High Road so, not surprisingly, her new menu at the kiosk in the park emphasises natural and organic produce.



Sally-Anne Wigfield and Beatrice Rodrigues at work in the kiosk.

Photo by Diana Cormack

"You won't find E numbers or preservatives here," Sally told *THE ARCHER* when describing how she sources quality products with which to serve her customers. As well as a tempting range of snacks and drinks at the kiosk, she can also provide 100% organic private catering for groups including picnics in the park or children's parties.

Sally uses a novel system known as "t 5" in which different coloured plates represent each of the five essential food

groups. She has incorporated this into her "lazy Sally" system for picnics, based on the "lazy Susan" plates used in the 70s.

Beatrice Rodrigues helps with outside catering ventures, which have included News International's Five-A-Side tournaments. For more information email sallyanne@think5.co.uk, telephone 07879 642 778 or visit Sally-Anne at the café, which is open daily and is to be known as the Lazy Sally Kiosk.

## Rain stops fun day

The awful summer weather forced the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy to call off the Bobath Big Fun Run in Cherry Tree Wood Park on Sunday 8 July.

Even though the weather reports predicted that the day itself would be fine, two weeks of persistent rain had made the park unsafe for children to run in and would have turned the grass into mud.

Kevin Gillespie, fundraising manager at the centre in East End Road, said: "It was a hard decision, but the right one. After making a site inspection on Thursday afternoon, the park was waterlogged in places and the woodland area slippery. I spoke with Barnet Park's maintenance department and with our insurers who agreed that the risks of injury and of damage to

the park were too great for the event to go ahead.

"Cancelling early meant that we could contact all the registered runners and the schools involved to minimise the disappointment of children being turned away on the day."

The charity, which treats children with cerebral palsy, has rescheduled the event for Sunday 30 September. All those registered will be automatically re-entered. If you are interested in registering to run or require a refund, please contact the fundraising department on 020 8442 2276.

## Park petition turned away

By Diana Cormack

Concerns about the future of Cherry Tree Wood were not allayed at a meeting of Barnet's Conservative controlled Council on 26 June.

East Finchley Ward Councillor Alison Moore requested that, with members of the local community being present, Councillor Colin Roger's motion regarding the problems caused by the loss of a permanent park keeper should be heard. Voting on the motion was strictly along party lines with 32 against, 25 for. Her second request that a petition with hundreds of signatures, collected by The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, be presented was turned down by the same margin.

### 'Grandstand'

Disappointed Friends were angered by these decisions, feeling that the views of all those who had signed were being brushed aside. Councillor Colin Rogers was determined that the petition should not go unnoticed and had his request to present it to the Chair at the end of the meeting accepted. Council leader Mike Freer is reported to have said that a meeting should not be used as a grandstand or publicity stunt by presenting a petition about what was a localised issue. The feeling of those from East Finchley who attended was that the many worries expressed and anti-social incidents reported by concerned residents would continue to be ignored.



East Finchley Councillors, Andrew McNeil, Alison Moore and Colin Rogers, sign the petition at the Festival. Photo by Toni Morgan

### Local involvement

The following week, a Barnet Council press release announced that some 20 small parks were to be transformed, with people from the local community being involved in planting and "adopting" local area sites. Radical plans would bring the benefits of the countryside and Green Belt and transform these non-premier parks. Cherry Tree Wood is a premier park.

Councillor Matthew Offord, cabinet member for transport and environment said it gave local residents the opportunity to be involved in shaping their local park. Isn't that just what

the Friends want to do?

Visit [www.cherrytreewood.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreewood.co.uk) for more information.

*Footnote: Those who gave their addresses when signing the petition received a letter of response from Barnet Council three weeks later. In it, council leader Mike Freer mentions plans to rent out the Cherry Tree Wood kiosk and pavilion but fails to address the issue of the loss of the park keeper, the main point of the petition. He urges residents to contact him directly for any further information. Perhaps all those concerned about the park's welfare should do so.*

## Park gates left open to abuse

By L.C. Ward

At the bottom of Summerlee Avenue, just inside the park gates, a Barnet Council notice states: "Authorised vehicles only. Please close and lock these gates on entering or leaving the park". Barnet employs a company to lock and unlock all their park gates. In Cherry Tree Wood the person responsible drives through the gates to do this, yet completely ignores the notice.



Free-for-all. Picking up after the party. Photo by Ian Cormack

With double gates left wide open all day, some people are now taking it as an invitation to drive in themselves, although there is no roadway and only a narrow footpath around the park. Damage is being done to the grass, and there is potential danger to pedestrians.

Recently, on a wet afternoon, a car was driven through because a children's party had been held under a gazebo on the field and the parent organiser wanted to take it down and pack the party gear away. Other parents drove in and, when locals challenged them, pointing out that cars were not allowed in the park,

the excuse was that they had to pick up their children because it was raining. During better weather people have driven in to hold picnics, barbecues and even fashion shoots.

A permanent park keeper could ensure that these gates were locked and unlocked at all appropriate times.

Cherry Tree Wood is classified as a Premier Park. Barnet Council says Premier Parks are managed to provide a high quality recreational experience with an appropriate range of facilities, all of which are measured against the Civic Trust's Green Flag Award criteria.

## New friends and new families

Children at Holy Trinity School were delighted to be given a new teddy bear each by a charity seeking to find new families willing to adopt and foster.

At a special assembly, every pupil in the Infants was given a new teddy friend by the Parents for Children organisation, along with some information to take home to their parents.

The charity is seeking foster carers from all community groups to provide loving, understanding family environments for youngsters who are unable to live with their birth parents.

Adoptive families are also being sought for children with emotional, learning and physical disabilities, as well as families who can offer short break support for others who are already fostering or adopting.

For more information on Parents for Children, visit [www.parentsforchildren.org.uk](http://www.parentsforchildren.org.uk), email [info@parentsforchildren.org.uk](mailto:info@parentsforchildren.org.uk) or telephone 020 7520 2880.

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