



Wood watch

By Sarah Hutton and Ann Bronkhorst

Work has finally begun on the regeneration programme for Coldfall Wood, part of the Capital Woodlands Project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Walkers can cross over the stream on new bridges, sit on new benches and enjoy new views.

Foresters have felled a swathe of trees along the stream, opening up a very different view of the wood. Most trees are being coppiced, that is cut so that they will re-grow from the base. This will let in light, encouraging an increased variety of plant species alongside the stream.

The coppicing is central to the regeneration plans for the wood and has the full support of Friends of Coldfall Wood who are photographing all the work in progress.

A cleaner stream

Once the coppicing is complete, the spare timber will be used to make dams and part of the new reed bed intended to reduce pollution in the stream. Thames Water has finished investigating the pollution. Ninety per cent of properties in the catchment area were checked for misconnected domestic appliances and open surface water caps; more than

50 properties turned out to have one or both problems.

Co-incidentally, work has also started on the site of the old park keeper's lodge at the entrance to the wood opposite Fortismere School. This is a separate development, which has nothing to do with the coppicing programme or the Capital Woodlands Project. Friends of Coldfall Wood objected to the plans on the grounds that they constituted over-development. In spite of these and other objections, Haringey Planning Committee gave permission for the replacement of the lodge with two houses.

In digging to lay the foundations the builders seem to have reached the water table, which may have an impact on the woodland by diverting water from the surrounding trees. Again, the Friends will be monitoring how the developers deal with this problem.

My wildlife year

By Linda Mitchell

The heatwave of 2006 seems a long way off now but it was the start of a busy time for my East Finchley garden.

In June, the magpie, woodpecker and parakeets all brought their babies while long tailed tits flew about like helicopters. The sparrow hawk came in late June and killed a bird on the lawn.

Blue tits fed non-stop although there was a slight worry about the nut feeder. Not one bird came to it after I had bought nuts from a different source. It's certainly very important to buy bird food from a good reliable source.

Towards the end of July, with temperatures in the 90s, there was a marked decline in birds, butterflies and bees. They must have been sheltering somewhere cooler. Two young foxes slept on the shed roof at midday in scorching heat.

By September, the robins were becoming very territorial and blackbirds searched among leaves for their dinner. A jay dug up a piece of lawn with his beak, then stuffed leaves

into the hole.

Parakeets still come daily and at the beginning of December I counted at least 15 in the apple tree. Now I can see the squirrels building a drey at the top of the pear tree. If it wasn't for their unwanted antics, digging up bulbs and lawns and raiding the nut feeders, I would feel happy that they had taken up residence.

Parakeets in Barnet
Ring-necked parakeets, first reported in Barnet by our wildlife diarist Linda Mitchell, are now said to be regular visitors along most sections of Dollis Brook.

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch was held on 27-28 January. The Finchley Society's Derek Warren would be interested to know which birds you have spotted in your garden or local green patch. Derek can be contacted on 020 8346 5258.



Edir Oliveira da Cunha and Roy Barker in Pizzico. Photo by Diana Cormack.

Martin open day

Parents are invited to see learning in action at Martin Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools. Visitors will be able to see classes for three to 11-year-olds and afterwards meet with governors, teachers and members of the PTA.

The open afternoon takes place at the school in High Road on Tuesday 13 March from 1.30 to 3.30pm, with the first of five tours starting at 1.30pm.

Heart of the matter

By Sheila Armstrong
East Finchley's vintage clothes shop Lazooli is planning a pre-Valentine's Day evening event on Thursday 8 February from 7.30 to 9pm.

Local fashionistas of all ages are invited to have a glass of wine and browse through the rails, shoes and accessories ready for whatever Valentine's Day may bring.

Tickets for the evening are free but must be booked in advance as space is limited. Visit www.lazooli.co.uk, or telephone 020 8883 1117 to register to receive a discount next time you shop there.

Brazilian home cooking

By Diana Cormack

Despite the name you won't find any pizza at Pizzico, but you will find plenty of home-made Brazilian dishes cooked on site by owner Edir Oliveira da Cunha. For Edir, who lives in Tarling Road, East Finchley, has recently achieved her lifetime's ambition: owning a café.

Sixteen years ago Edir came to the UK intending to earn enough money to return to Brazil and take a cookery course. However, when working as a washer-up at the Working Men's College in Mornington Crescent, her kind gesture of baking a cake for a colleague marked the beginning of a change in her life. The delicious cake made such an impression that her boss asked Edir if she would become cook for the college. Edir was concerned that her English was not fluent enough to take on the task. His reply was, "Don't talk, just cook!"

So Edir continued cooking for teachers and students, including a couple of years for the University of the Third Age, but when the Grade Two listed building of the college closed for refurbishment she decided to try and make her dream come true. With the help of her good friend Roy Barker, whom she had met years before when they

were neighbours in Deanery Close, the search began for suitable premises and they recently opened for business at 289 Regents Park Road N3.

The flag outside Pizzico attracts Brazilian customers eager for a taste of their native food. They come from all over for, as Roy told *THE ARCHER*, there doesn't appear to be any other Brazilian eatery north of Camden although there are a surprising number of Brazilians. Many pop in for the quick snacks typical of Brazil. Traditional meat and fish dishes are served as well and vegetarians are well catered for. Unusual fruit drinks are available along with an award winning organic Fair Trade coffee.

Pizzico is open daily except Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm.

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