



# Green fingered volunteers needed for parks scheme

**Barnet Council is looking to reinvigorate its tree warden scheme to create a new army of volunteers to plant and maintain areas of community woodland in Barnet parks and open spaces.**

As part of a four-year plan for local open spaces, sections of 20 Barnet parks have been earmarked for conversion into 'semi-natural' meadowland, including Lyttelton Playing Fields, off Lyttelton Road.

The council is hoping to find a group of tree warden volunteers for each park to help shape them as community woodland areas.

Barnet has been involved in the tree warden scheme for more than ten years. However, numbers are said to have dwindle

over the years and the council is hoping more people will now get involved.

Councillor Matthew Offord, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "Being a tree warden can be incredibly rewarding and is an easy and practical way to be 'green' and play a small part in tackling climate change."

To find out more about being a tree warden, call 020 8359 7838.

Also, see Letters, page 11.

# A sign of the times

By Diana Cormack

**At the recent launch of CCTV cameras in East Finchley, Councillor Brian Coleman (Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety) said: "The roll-out of another batch of CCTV cameras will send out a clear message to those engaged in anti-social behaviour and street crime. If you break the law in Barnet, you will be caught on camera."**

Not everyone was listening or maybe they just didn't agree, for on the CCTV warning notice opposite the tube station someone has clambered up to write the comment "U wish". THE ARCHER wonders if they were caught on camera?



This says it all! Photo by Diana Cormack

# Donkeys return for Muswell Hill Festival

**Cherry Tree Wood will again host the Muswell Hill Festival which this year takes place on Sunday 16 September from 12 - 6pm.**

The 31<sup>st</sup> festival will be heralded the day before in Muswell Hill Broadway, with an invasion of parachuting teddy bears, launched from the roof of St. James's Church.

On the day itself, there will be the usual Donkey Derby and dog show in Cherry Tree Wood, along with several well-known music and dance groups, plus a number of north London craftspeople.

Organisers are looking for

local businesses to sponsor a donkey and provide jockeys to race. There is also an urgent need for general sponsors and advertisers, along with volunteers and stallholders to run the event.

Anyone who would like to help should contact Alison Wynn on 020 7183 3832 or mobile 07808 364033. All proceeds from the festival will go to the Hornsey Trust for children with cerebral palsy and their educational services.



Above: Tonia and instructor Steve about to leave the plane - and right: in flight



# Tonia falls from 10,000ft

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Customers of TD Hair Designers will recognise Tonia, photographed on her way to raising £400 for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. It was her first parachute jump, but those folded hands in the first picture are not clasped in prayer. She was just getting into the right position.**

"You have to keep your hands in front of your chest, your eyes closed and your head back as you leave the plane. Otherwise you can go into a tailspin," she said. "When you're clear, you bring up your arms on either side."

Leaving the plane was what she had feared most, but after hanging about for over eight hours waiting for clouds to lift, she just wanted to get on with it. "Once I was out of the plane it was freezing cold and so windy I couldn't hear anything, and my mouth dried up completely.

We came down from 10,000 feet at 120mph, and the parachute opened at 5,000 feet. When the chute opened, we slowed down and I could look around. That was great."

Tonia was one of about 15 brave souls who made the jump, for various charities or just for fun, at the North London Parachute Centre in Cambridgeshire. She jumped with instructor Steve, who reassured her that all would not be lost if he blacked out. In an emergency, an automatic

sensor on his belt should open the parachute. Would she do it again? "Yes, I think I probably would."

Tonia chose to jump for Noah's Ark because it's a children's charity, and also a local one, which doesn't get as much publicity as some others. It is dedicated to establishing a hospice service for children with life-limiting conditions in North London and South Hertfordshire. For further information, visit [www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk](http://www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk).

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