



Campaign to save park patrols

By Janet Maitland

A campaign is under way to prevent Haringey Council from axing the Parks Constabulary, which carries out safety patrols in Coldfall Wood.

Haringey plans to replace the constabulary, a team of 12 officers and three police dogs providing 24 hour cover, with a new cross-borough Parks Response Unit, to be managed by the Metropolitan Police, based at Finsbury Park, and supporting two Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

They also plan to increase frontline parks staff by more than 17,000 additional hours a year and to establish new Community Warden volunteering opportunities. Haringey believes that this scheme will improve safety and security, particularly during the daytime when parks are used the most.

Night cover inadequate

Campaigners, however, are not convinced. They not only want to save the existing service but to appoint dedicated Park Wardens. Hundreds of people have signed a petition, submitted to Haringey at the end of September.

"Haringey's plan is mislead-

ing," said Liberal Democrat MP Lynne Featherstone, leader of the campaign. "Safer Neighbourhood Teams aren't tasked to respond to 999 calls and they don't have transport to carry arrested persons, witnesses who need assistance or dogs. It's also likely they will clock off at 5pm although much of the trouble that occurs in parks happens at night."

Local Friends group

If you care about the future of Coldfall Wood you might be interested in joining a local group who act as its voluntary guardians. The Friends of Coldfall Wood organise clean-ups, walks and conservation activities.

The Friends meet on the first Tuesday in every month at 7.30 pm at the Vampires Football Club, off Coppett's Road. If you are interested in becoming a member, email info@coldfallwoods.co.uk or visit their developing website at www.coldfallwoods.co.uk.

Get tested

Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) is encouraging sexually active young people to get tested for Chlamydia, still the most common STI (sexually transmitted infection) treated at local clinics.

The infection is most prevalent among 16 to 24 year olds who, in most cases, are unknowingly infected. Barnet PCT aims to screen every sexually active young person in this age group.

If caught early, the infection can easily be treated with antibiotics. If not treated, Chlamydia can cause serious health problems such as miscarriage, infertility and ectopic pregnancies.

Chlamydia testing can be carried out by the individuals themselves. Self-tester kits can be obtained from local pharmacies and GP practices offering sexual health services. The 'do-it-yourself' tests are free, painless, simple and discreet,

with results available from the NHS in around two weeks.

As part of this programme, 46 GP surgeries in the borough are offering Chlamydia screening to patients. Barnet PCT has also arranged weekly screenings and advice sessions at Barnet College, in addition to services currently offered at local young persons' clinics. Discussions are also under way to roll out the Chlamydia Screening Programme at Middlesex University and local youth clubs.

For more information about the Chlamydia Screening Programme and full details on where to get tests, contact Justine Maher on 020 8447 3590 or Justine.maher@barnet-pct.nhs.uk

Swim for kids

Throughout October, Children's Hospices UK is running a national "Swim for Kids" sponsored swimathon.

Thanks to a partnership between the north London based Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and Barnet Leisure Centres, anyone participating in Barnet will be able to swim for free at one of the designated leisure centres when they do their swimathon. To find out about the leisure centres involved and for other information such as registration details and sponsorship forms, visit the Noah's Ark website at

www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk or telephone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.



Arsenal goalkeeper Manuel Almunia visited the Phoenix cinema to watch 'The Boy In Striped Pyjamas'. Photo courtesy Stuart MacFarlane / Arsenal Football Club.

Three famous faces at the Phoenix

By Daphne Chamberlain

Look out for events at the Phoenix. Last month, a favourite book brought Arsenal goalkeeper Manuel Almunia to the cinema. The week before, famous local poet Fleur Adcock introduced her favourite film, while first in to bat in September had been "Blowers", alias cricket commentator and wit Henry Blofeld, "my dear old things".

The Blowers event was a screening of one of his recorded talks, giving glimpses of his eccentric family, his roundabout way into commentating via the City, and his gift for mimicry. He signed copies of the video afterwards.



Henry Blofeld. Photo by Diana Cormack

Finchley. The film she selected to be shown was Shakespeare at his most accessible, Laurence Olivier's excellent Henry V, chosen for nostalgic reasons. She had seen it three times as a child, in England, Ireland and New Zealand, and had delivered the St Crispin speech many times from the family's kitchen table.

Almunia's choice

And finally, "fresh from keeping a clean sheet against Blackburn", and with his sweaty shirt to award to one lucky ticket-holder, came Manuel Almunia.

A question and answer session before the film of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas revealed a footballer with a passionate interest in history, par-

ticularly relating to World War Two. He had not seen the film before, but his wife had bought him the book two years ago, and he recommended it for children to learn about mistakes the human race has made, and to remember not to make the same mistakes again.

The young boy next to me had his hands over his face as the story neared its terrible climax. This extremely powerful and very sad film made a tremendous impact on the audience.

Almunia was at the Phoenix to support Arsenal's Premier League Reading Stars programme, an educational project in partnership with the Football Foundation, the National Literacy Trust, the Premier League and the Arts Council England, which aims to encourage families to read together.

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