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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

Walkers welcomed to Coldfall Wood

By Ann Bronkhorst

Haringey's planned improvements to the Muswell Hill Playing Fields north of Coldfall Wood should start to appear this spring but may take years to complete. Meanwhile, however, immediate practical measures will give walkers clearer, easier and safer access to both open spaces.

Proposals include work on gates and paths at all three entrances to the wood from Creighton Avenue, to make them less muddy and slippery for pedestrians and to deter motorcyclists. It is hoped that a new bridge over the stream will replace the one made from railway sleepers.

Safe access to field

Currently, people can reach the field from many alleyways and roads in the Coldfall estate, as well as from the wood. This will be rationalised, with some access points closed and others clarified by signs and fencing and the installation of pedestrian chicanes

or motorbike inhibitors. Wheelchair and pushchair-friendly circular gates are being considered for the Marriot Road and Coppetts Road entrances.

Residents backing on to the playing fields will welcome measures to inhibit motorbike access after suffering annoyance and danger from them for years. The Venue, the newest housing development bordering the field, remains a potential entry point for motorbikes but the police are advising Wimpey, the developers, on how to create secure access to the fields for residents of The Venue, but not for bikers.

Recycling expands

Barnet residents are now able to recycle extra items through their kerbside collection service. Cartons made by Tetra Pak and used for milk, fruit juice and wine can now be placed in blue recycling boxes.

The complex manufacturing of Tetra Pak products has made them difficult to recycle as they are made out of cardboard, contain a foil lining and with a plastic screw cap. However, Barnet Council's recycling service provider May Gurney has now located a UK reprocessor that can recycle the cartons.

Residents will be able to place the complete carton, with the cap removed, into their blue box. As with cardboard, Tetra Paks must be flattened to help make best use of the space on the recycling collection vehicles.

Residents of flats served by communal recycling facilities will be able to recycle their Tetra Paks alongside cardboard.

Do you love our local wood?

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood are calling on all interested users of our local wood to attend the AGM on Sunday 24 January at the Old White Lion next to East Finchley tube station, starting at 11am.

They hope members and others may offer to join the committee and help to preserve the wood for the benefit of all and into the future. For more information, visit www.cherrytreewood.co.uk



Martin School pupils. Photo by Rebecca Bak.

Tree o'clock

By Jack McCabe and Ollie Clymer

Eco Council reps and pupils at Ravenscroft Secondary School and Martin Primary School got together on Saturday 5 December in a global attempt to break the world record for planting trees at a single site in one hour.

The record to beat was 18,124. After one hour's hard work, our joint efforts meant we had managed to plant 300 trees, which had been donated by the local taxi firm Greater London Hire.

We kids were not alone in this attempt as teachers and other school staff, such as Tristan Green our caretaker and Suzy Osborne, who works in the school office, joined in as well. Mr Green said: "It was hard but in the end very rewarding."

We are now looking forward to watching the trees, which include ash, oak and hawthorns, start to grow on our school field.

John Scott, managing director of Greater London Hire, said it was a great

privilege to be involved. "We're extremely lucky," he said, "that Martin School and indeed East Finchley have the playing field. It will be lovely to watch the trees grow over the years, and to think that many years hence some of the planters will be able to point out the trees we planted to their own grandchildren."

The two schools didn't smash the record but three other tree-planting sites around the UK did. Also, the Martin and Ravenscroft trees will count towards a record for the most trees planted at any number of sites in one hour. The total is still being counted. Read more about tree o'clock at the BBC Tree O'Clock website www.bbc.co.uk/treeoclock.



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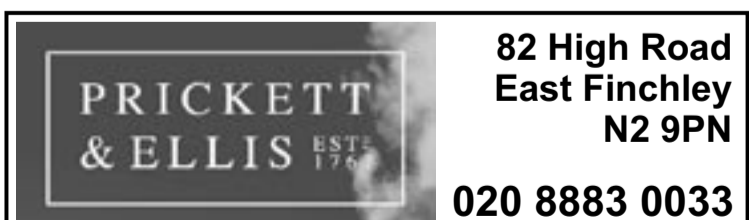
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