



Rethink for Cherry Tree Wood pavilion plans

Proposals to bring new life to the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood have been reworked in the wake of concerns raised by a number of residents. The new plans will go on display in the wood this month, ahead of a potential planning application to Barnet Council.

The original plan to demolish the existing pavilion and replace it with an eco-friendly building housing a café and an upstairs space for the use of local groups, exhibitions and meetings triggered a fierce controversy.

Some people objected that the scheme was out of keeping with the park and would cause disruption to local residents with its evening opening hours. Others feared that it would infringe too heavily on the existing woodland.

Response to consultation

Sally-Anne Wigfield, who runs the existing kiosk in the wood, has now revised her pavilion plans. She says the new plan will keep the existing pavilion building, retaining the roof, and will not affect any of

the surrounding woodland. It will operate on a similar basis to the existing kiosk in that it will not be open outside standard park hours, will be accessible only from existing park entrances and will sell healthy food and snacks, drinks and ice cream.

She said the new idea came out of six months of consultation, discussions at the kiosk, public meetings and one-to-one chats with people. Sally says she has tried to take all comments and concerns into account and is hoping that the new plan will meet all the needs and wishes of the local community.

Continuing concerns

Whether these revised proposals will allay the fears of some members of the community is yet to be seen. One concern is that such a

development, with its large number of clients, could have an adverse effect on those who have used and enjoyed the playground and surrounding parkland for years; another is the impact any over-utilization might have on the wood itself.

There have been demands for an environmental study to be carried out in the pavilion area and Barnet Council's attitude to conservation has been called into question. Objectors are also worried about what would happen to the proposed building and the regulations governing its use, should it change hands in the future.



Restoration work starts at Phoenix

After more than a year of fundraising, work is starting on the £1 million restoration of the Phoenix Cinema as it approaches its centenary celebrations. Chief executive Paul Homer gives us an update.

We did it. As you read this, the first hard hats will be being donned, the first scaffolding will be being erected, and those yellow health and safety notices will have been pinned up. The builders are here. We're delighted to be ready to restore our lovely but aged building and make it into the cinema that you deserve.

The people of East Finchley have supported the Phoenix for many years and we recognise that some of that support was out of loyalty despite the fact that the sound was a bit rubbish, the seats were uncomfortable and the building was a bit tatty. Over the last ten years or so we've addressed a host of problems, creating a much larger foyer space, re-seating the auditorium and making significant improvements to our projection and technical facilities.

More than loyalty

This restoration project will tackle the numerous remaining issues, creating a landmark building that all of East Finchley and North London can be proud of. Those of us lucky enough to be involved in running the cinema are very proud of the building, its history and all the work we do. This project will enable everyone to share that pride, not out of loyalty, but out of genuine delight in a beautiful cinema with excellent technical facilities, great customer service, a fantastic programme of films and events and a lovely café-bar.

Work schedule

By late August we hope to have the cinema ready for you to see, though there will be some disruption in the next six months. From March to May we'll be open for evenings and weekends only as the builders tackle the exterior of the building in the daytime. Then from June we'll be closed completely for the interior work.

More details can be found on our website where we'll be posting photographs of the work in progress as well as a regular blog about the works. For tickets and information, call our box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Action needed to save allotments

By Sheila Armstrong
The Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust needs to raise more than £30,000 by 31 March to enable it to buy the allotment land it occupies, currently owned by Thames Water. If the money is not raised by that date, the Trust could lose the deal.

Campaigners have fought hard to get this far, persuading Thames Water to remove the land from an auction sale and then convincing the company that they are serious about buying it for themselves.

The trust is appealing for donations to help this good cause, saving much-needed allotment plots where for decades people have grown fruit and vegetables and simply enjoyed the open air.

You can donate online at www.savefortisgreenallotments.com, or you can send a cheque, payable to Fortis Green Community Allotments Trust, to 33 Midhurst Avenue, London N10 3EP. The Trust has said it will undertake to return all donations over £20 if it fails to reach its fundraising target.

Local artist Sarah McMenemy has given a signed limited edition of 100 prints of the allotments to raise funds. Contact info@s avefortisgreenallotments.com to find out more about this and other fundraising events.

I might need some stabilisers!

By Diana Cormack
It's not often you come across something this interesting on your way to nursery school, but two and a half-year-old Alex found this penny farthing propped up outside Alan's Records at 218 High Road.

It is owned by Martin Henham Antiques. Martin, who shares the premises with Alan Dobrin, told *THE ARCHER* that the bike, manufactured in 1910, was called "The Ordinary". Sharp-eyed readers may notice that it has no pedals. Sadly, they were stolen a few years ago, along with many other items, when the antiques were put into storage for a short time.



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Love you loads xx
Mothering Sunday 14th March 2010 - don't forget!

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