



Centre Manager Mark Healey assists Cllr Anthony Finn, Mayor of Barnet, unveil the new sign. Photo by John Dearing

Green Man's second decade

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Green Man Centre celebrated its 10th birthday in style at the end of November, with a reception hosted by the new centre manager Mark Healey, and the head of the Green Man Management Group Janice Kerr.

In his welcoming speech, Mark Healey said: "Today is a great opportunity for us to get together, to celebrate what has been achieved in the past ten years, to thank those who have got us to where we are today, and to look forward to the future."

Representatives from many local organisations and groups who use the centre were there, making the most of the opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and enjoy tasty snacks.

Barnet's Mayor, Cllr Anthony Finn, who unveiled the new Centre sign, said: "You are doing marvellous work here. People can look at this centre and say, 'This is what we can achieve'."

Opportunities Fair

There is a lot of events going on at the Centre now, with more planned for the future. Coming up on Friday 28 January is an Opportunities Fair, when a

number of organisations will give advice and information on a range of subjects. To be involved, or for more information on the centre, contact Mark Healey on 020 8815 0703 or at www.twitter.com/GreenManCentre.

Park House latest

Last month we reported that Barnet Council's Cabinet Resources Committee of 30 November would be making a decision on the future of Park House. The original agenda stated that the Council would decide whether to let it to third party organisations for a commercial rent. However, the item was withdrawn from the agenda. See Letters on page 11.

Sergeant leaves Safer Neighbourhood Team

By Janet Maitland

Sergeant Andy Matthews has left the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) after two years of dedicated work. He has a position in the Crime Management Unit at Colindale Police Station and will continue to oversee the SNT until a replacement is found.

During his time in East Finchley, the team has set up new initiatives such as the Shield Project, which has reduced the number of elderly and vulnerable victims of crime, and E-Watch, an email-based local crime early warning system. It's also run many proactive operations tackling burglary, carcrime, drug dealing, ATM crime and anti-social behaviour.

Sgt Matthews said: "I would like to thank my team, ward panel members and other partners for their part in making this a very rewarding two years of my police service."

Review of SNTs

His move coincides with a London-wide review of all SNTs. A statement from senior management at the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) says that the purpose of the review is to find better ways of using current neighbourhood policing resources.

In every neighbourhood in London there will continue to be named officers who are responsible for identifying and



tackling local crime and anti social behaviour. MPS also says that no changes will be made without feedback from Barnet Council and local residents.

If you want to be involved in this review you can complete an online questionnaire at www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/339166/19e4/

The Safer Neighbourhood Team office is at 113 East Finchley High Road, N2 8AG. You can phone them on 020 7161 9014 or 07887 632767, email them at EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk or talk to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) you see on patrol.

Snapshot of life in one day

The Finchley Society is marking its 40th anniversary on Friday 11 February by asking people to take a snapshot record of life in our area on that day.

They are hoping to record all aspects of local life, big and small, day and night, as long as it is within the old areas of the Borough of Finchley and the Urban District of Friern Barnet. This is the area between Brook Farm in the north and The Spaniards Inn in the south, and from the Finchley Golf Club in the west to the Friern Bridge Retail Park in the east.

Send your photos to [web@fin](mailto:web@finchleysociety.org.uk)

[chleysociety.org.uk](mailto:web@finchleysociety.org.uk), or post them to Derek Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3 1YN. Please include information on the time, location and subject of each photo, plus your own name and contact details.

All records will be kept in the society's archives and the best shots will be shown at various events and, it is hoped, turned into a book.

News from the village

Daphne Chamberlain reports on the latest meeting of the East Finchley Village Residents Association.

Library

Polly Napper from East Finchley Library Users Group was the guest speaker at the Association's November meeting. Negatives in the library's recent history are its reclassification from a Town Centre to a Local library, cutting hours and funding, followed by the disappointment of not securing support from the Big Lottery.

Polly had positive news though, telling the meeting about the library's excellent records for loans and visits. She said: "Martin School use it all the time. Saturdays are very busy, and the computers are always in use. It's a very valuable part of our community."

To keep up to date with library developments, contact Polly at pollynapper@btinternet.com.

Church Lane traffic

Chair Bob Owens will arrange a meeting with Cllr Andrew McNeil in the New Year. EFVRA member David Broome has spoken to Barnet Chief Executive Nick Walkeley about a 20mph limit, and also asked what was being done about the headless lampposts.

Mr Walkeley said that the lampposts were being "looked into", and suggested that traffic might be slowed by narrowing the road. More volunteers are needed to collect signatures for the 20 mph petition.

Hobbs Green bollards

Bollards are now in place. This swift action followed Cllr McNeil passing on details and photos of traffic congestion supplied by a Hobbs Green resident. This resident has now met Barnet Highway Officers about poor visibility at the Hobbs Green/Church Lane junction.

Stanley Field

EFVRA member Roger Chapman suggested a public meeting in January, as the Council plan to sell the field appeared to be at odds with its own Open Spaces strategy.

For EFVRA information or enquiries, contact Caroline Broome on 020 8444 2329 or email east.finchley.village.residents.association@virginmedia.com.

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For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome