



Action on 'unsustainable' Cherry Tree woodland

By David Attfeld

The focus of discussion at the Friends of Cherry Wood Annual General Meeting, held on 29 April, was a woodland management report prepared by Barnet Council. The report highlighted a number of risks to the future of the wood, concluding that with its heavy usage, the woodland is not sustainable without active woodland management.

The report stopped short, however, of setting out an action plan, raising the prospect of an eventual loss of the woodland. The Friends group resolved that its priority for the next year should be to agree an action plan with Barnet Council and, if necessary, contribute its funds raised through members' subscriptions toward woodland management activities.

Once an action plan has been agreed, the Friends hope to engage experienced groups like BTCV (the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers) in its implementation.

Active volunteers needed

Unfortunately, over the past year the Friends have been less active than in previous years due

to a number of active members standing down. While the membership base remains strong, few people have stepped forward to play an active role.

If you have conservation experience that you would like to share, or if you could help organise a conservation activity or children's event, the Friends would love to hear from you. They can be contacted at info@cherrytreewood.co.uk or at 33 Twyford Ave, East Finchley, London N2 9NU.

Users of the wood are also reminded that they should report any concerns that they have, for example about overflowing bins or anti-social behaviour, to the parks team at Barnet Council on 020 8359 7828 or by email to parks@barnet.gov.uk

Wanted: East Finchley Festival volunteers

The East Finchley Festival will burst into life on Sunday 24 June in Cherry Tree Wood from midday until 6pm, and organisers are eager to sign up more volunteers to help on the day.

Can you spare an hour to sell raffle tickets or to help litter pick the field during and after the event? Every offer of help keeps the festival safe, fun and, importantly, free. Volunteers can email the organising team at eastfinchleyfestival@gmail.com or call them on 07983 360 834.

The Archer team will be there on the day. Please drop by our stall to tell us any news or just to say hello.

Meanwhile, here's the complete line-up of acts booked for the two stages at this year's festival.

Main Stage:

- 12pm: Official opening of festival by Councillor Alison Moore and parade presentation;
- 12.05pm: Martin School and North London Chorus perform excerpts from *Ballads for a Living Planet* by Ian Barnett;
- 12.20pm: Snake Oil Blues;
- 1pm: Lace and Whiskey;
- 1.40pm: Sound of the Suburb;
- 2.20pm: Matt Kos;
- 3pm: The Angels Of Kaos;
- 3.40pm: Sofasonic;
- 4.20pm: Spring Park Motel;
- 4.50pm: Festival raffle drawn and prices handed out;
- 5pm: Cosmic Blaze;
- 5.40pm: Darkwood;
- 6.10pm: Festival close.

Helen O'Toole Community Stage:

- 12.10pm: Jazz Guitar Group;
- 12.30pm: North London Brass;
- 1.10pm: Community Focus;
- 1.45pm: Dance group K Petrou;
- 2.20pm: Garden Suburb Theatre;
- 2.45pm: Angela Anuforo;
- 3.15pm: Oak Lodge School;
- 3.30pm: Friern Barnet School;
- 4pm: Sing Out Voices;
- 5pm: Kats Whiskers.



The 8th Muswell Hill Scouts have been sending treats to soldiers in the field. Photo by Adam Justice-Mills.

Treats for the troops

By Jo Harper

Scouts from the 8th Muswell Hill Scout Group (Tetherdown) have been supporting the Armed Forces in Afghanistan. Last month, the scouts put together 60 morale-boosting parcels for SOS 'Support our Soldiers', a registered charity that supports British Armed Forces.

The troops appreciate the parcels as 'a taste of home' to let them know that we are all thinking of them. Scouts and cubs packed useful items such as toothbrushes and soaps and unusual treats unavailable in a war zone, such as Oxo cubes, Tabasco sauce and Haribo sweets.

Some letters of thanks from grateful soldiers are already coming back. A recent letter from a soldier in Afghanistan said he was "very proud of the scouts and was especially touched with the letter which was enclosed. It bought a tear in my eye".

For more information on how you can send parcels

yourself, visit: www.supportoursoldiers.co.uk



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