



Cherry Tree Wood café closure

By Sally-Anne Wigfield

Five years ago, as an East Finchley resident, I took over the management and running of the Cherry Tree Wood kiosk café. Since then it has transformed into a vibrant successful hub, drawing customers from across the whole community and beyond: mums and babies; dog walkers; and school children (who are free to get creative with pavement chalks). Everyone enjoys our menu of affordable high quality, healthy fresh food and drinks.

Early this year, impressed by what they had seen here, two mothers who live next to Broomfield Park in Enfield asked me how they could set up a local Community Café there. I met with them and explained how to get started. They now have 295 supporters and 156 volunteers in place to run the café which they hope to open with an end-of-year launch. www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org/friendsofbroomfieldpark/cafe_in_the_park.html

As a key part of our role as a community resource, we have established crucial links with Treehouse (a specialist school for children with autism in Muswell Hill). Each week a group of senior students comes along with their teacher and, under supervision, gains real-world work experience in customer liaison, food preparation, serving and clearing away. This has been an extremely successful partnership providing opportunities almost non-existent elsewhere.

A future for the kiosk

However, our lease has expired and I cannot agree on suitable renewal terms in light of the proposed development of the old Pavilion located within the park.

To continue to have a café here local residents need to get together to run a community based project similar to the one in Broomfield Park run by volunteers.

I would be happy to return to train volunteers who want to get involved and would be delighted to continue to support the pupils (from Treehouse and potentially, Oak Lodge school) to run the café on certain days. The Treehouse pupils are very comfortable working from the kiosk, and the benefit of the work experience has been tremendous.

All surplus revenue generated could be reinvested into preserving the Woods, holding local events and getting some decent toilets!

If we all want and value a community café in Cherry Tree Woods, we need local support!

Ancient earthwork damaged

By Ann Bronkhorst

The latest plan for improving access, paths and surfaces in Coldfall Wood, funded by a grant from Community Spaces, has met with a setback which halted work in the 'Lover's Lawn' area for a while.

The ancient ditch and bank, a historically and geologically significant feature at the western side of the wood, has been cut through, causing damage. This seems to have happened because of a misunderstanding between the firm of landscape architects in charge of implementing the improvements, and the workers on site that day who had not grasped the importance of this ancient earthwork.

After consultation with Haringey's Conservation Officer and the Friends of Coldfall Wood, it has been decided that the excavated soil and stones will be put back and compacted to achieve (as

nearly as possible) the bank's original strength and density. A short boardwalk will cross the ditch and bank nearby, protecting them from heavy usage by walkers and providing a dry, secure footway.

The Friends, and others who value Coldfall Wood, feel dismayed and angry about the damage, but are hoping that the rest of the planned work will proceed smoothly, bringing visible benefits. For more information go to www.coldfallwoods.co.uk or visit the Friends' stall at the Muswell Hill Festival and, on 7 October, their Woodland Event on Muswell Hill Playing Field.

Jamaican fun in the sun

By Diana Cormack

Maureen Clemetson couldn't have been more delighted with the weather on Saturday 11 August, when Martin School field was bathed in hot sunshine for a Jamaica Family Fun Day. Maureen had arranged the event to raise awareness of the Monday Club, a youth club she started six years ago, and to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Jamaica's independence.

The mix of those enjoying the afternoon's activities reflected the Jamaican coat of arms motto: "Out of many, one people". A lot of participants came dressed in the Jamaican flag, its colours or their own national dress. There was something for everyone and a large cross-section of the East Finchley community enjoyed the live music, dancing, skate boarding, table tennis and bouncy castle along with tombola and a raffle. Authentic Caribbean cuisine was amongst the food and drink on sale - particularly delicious when consumed to a background of lots of reggae music.

Barnet's Deputy Mayor Kate Salinger opened the proceedings and joined in the dancing with enthusiasm. She told The

Archer of her admiration for the work Maureen Clemetson is doing, an opinion which many will share.



Deputy Mayoress Kate Salinger and Maureen Clemetson. Photo by Diana Cormack.

Pussy Galore

Animal Aid and Advice, the local East Finchley animal charity, would like to invite readers to their second cat-homing day after a very successful first earlier in the year.

The charity shop at 48 High Road N2, near the Phoenix cinema, will be open on Sunday 9 September between 12 and 6pm. Come and meet some of the rescued cats that are in need of good, kind, loving homes.

The charity will also have a stall at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on the same day, Sunday 9 September, where they will be selling many types of goods to raise money for the cats in their care. They hope to see some cat-loving ARCHER readers there on the day.

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