



Ann Owens Centre: services will carry on

By Daphne Chamberlain
Mark Robinson, Age UK Barnet Chief Officer, has contacted *THE ARCHER* about the future of the Ann Owens Centre. As we said last month, the lease on the building is due to end early this year. However, Age UK Barnet has negotiated an extension with Finchley Charities, the landlord of the centre, to use the building beyond April.

We apologise for a misleading headline in last month's issue and for not including a statement from Age UK Barnet. The organisation did not receive our requests for a comment because we used the wrong email address.

As announced last spring, the existing day service is stopping in March, but Mark Robinson has told us that Age UK Barnet will be providing a new range of activities at the Ann Owens and Meritage Centres, suitable for existing users and new ones.

Mark said: "The existing day service is changing at both centres. New services will be provided. We are working with the day service users to identify alternative services which will be suitable for them. "The minibus service has not stopped at either centre. It continues and will continue until the service changes next year. "We agree with The Archer in recognising the importance of transport and we are working with the Neighbourhood Services Provider Group to improve community transport in Barnet."

New lease of life for the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

By Debbie Linton
Around 20 people helped to reinvigorate the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood by attending the charity's AGM in November following an appeal for new committee members and fresh ideas.

Everyone was keen to revive the charity and to continue to work on issues relating to conservation, protecting the ancient woodland, improving the facilities and security, holding events and liaising with Barnet Council.

Pepe, the current leaseholder of the pavilion building in the park, also came along. He reported on his development and stated he hoped to be open as a café in the summer of 2015.

Oliver Mellman and Nathan Eastwood were elected as co-chairmen. Many others came forward offering to help informally or to come onto

the committee, all bringing a variety of interests, experience and expertise.

We thank Natan Tiefenbrun who chaired the charity over the past three years and did much to build up the charity and its members from 2011 onwards, including holding a very popular sports day.

If you too would like to help the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood please visit the website at www.cherrytreewood.co.uk. For details of the next meeting in January 2015 you can also email info@cherrytreewood.co.uk. We have funds to spend and over 150 members.



In tune: The group's young ukelele players.

Get strumming!

A new ukelele club is up and running and new members are welcome. The club is based at the North London Performing Arts Centre in St James' Lane, N10, and members played their first public gig at East Finchley's Christmas Festival on 6 December. Find out more from Margie Jammy on 07909 439513 or visit www.northlondonukeleleclub.co.uk

Narrow escape for residents in flats fire

By Janet Maitland
A number of people narrowly escaped injury when evacuating a block of flats on Oak Lane after fire broke out on 4 November.

When the blaze started in a flat on the third floor, residents from most of the flats in the block started to leave the building, but burning debris and glass fell onto their escape route.

To stay or to run

"I was very concerned that residents of the block didn't know what to do in the event of a fire," said Christopher Burrows, a Watch Manager with the London Fire Brigade. "If the fire is not inside your home but elsewhere in the building, you're usually safer staying where you are unless heat or smoke is affecting you.

"Your walls, doors and floors will hold back flames and smoke for between 30 and 60 minutes. If you leave your flat, you could be rushing into choking smoke, the fire itself, or firefighters using equipment to bring the fire under control. In this case the fire shattered a window in the affected flat and it was lucky there were no injuries."

The four people who were in the flat also escaped without

injury. Nearly half of the flat was damaged but firefighters managed to prevent the fire, believed to have started in a tumble drier, from spreading to other flats.

In 2013, 54% of all deaths in London were caused by accidental fires in the home. About 60% of all fires in the home start in the kitchen, usually because of cooking.

Safety advice

To find out about fire safety in blocks of flats, go to www.knowtheplan.co.uk

You can book a free fire safety visit from the Fire Brigade by calling 08000 28 44 28. Officers will come to your home, advise you on danger spots such as overloaded plugs, and install free fire alarm(s) with batteries that last 10 years.

CTW leak: watch this space!

Following on from previous reports, Thames Water confirmed a leak from a broken pipe close to the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.

They informed Barnet Council, who arranged for the pipe to be repaired. Hopefully this has done the trick, though it is hard to tell as subsequent deluges quickly filled up the former puddle spaces in and beside the path and they are now all covered with leaves.

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