



On the street where you live

By Ann Bronkhorst

Normally Bedford Road, East Finchley, receives little media attention, but on Thursday 18 February a film company descended on it from 7am until late that night. The filming of a commercial for sandwich chain Subway centred around one house but inconvenienced many people, as residents' parking on the western half of the street was suspended from the previous afternoon until late on the 18th at short notice.

Guidelines

Barnet is one of several London boroughs working with Reel Film Locations, a company which acts as an interface between film companies and potential indoor and outdoor locations; it provides clear guidelines for street filming.

No permission is needed from anyone to film in streets as they are public highways. Disabled and loading bays are never suspended but residents' parking bays can be suspended; the film company pays the local authority to cover the costs of signage and administration.

Timely and careful

"Parking suspensions are done in a timely and careful way," said a representative of Reel Film Locations; and indeed this is what *should* happen. Film companies should notify residents by letter and the local authority should put up notices in the street, in both cases at least five days before the event. Bedford Road residents received no letter-drops, however, and street signs (Barnet's responsibility) appeared only one day before filming.

Under the Freedom of Infor-



'Disruption: Camera crews in Bedford Road. Photo James Stroud

mation Act Emma Stroud, of Bedford Road, asked Barnet about the amount of money the council was paid and what it was for. Barnet did not provide the total amount but replied that each suspended residential parking space is charged to the filming company at £20 per day. In addition, there is an administration fee of £130 per application covering "one or multiple bay suspensions" and "ensuring that the correct signage is in place": the latter clearly not done in this case.

Where next?

On the website reelfilmlocations.com there are lists of guidelines for film companies and local authorities, and photos of potential locations. Other possible sites for filming locally include Martin Primary School and Cherry Tree Wood Park (sic). If a film crew turns

up there or in your street, let's hope the correct procedures will have been followed.

A new charter for our woodlands

By Luz Mosquera, Woodland Trust volunteer

The Woodland Trust, with over 40 other cross-sector organisations, is promoting a new charter called The Charter for Trees, Woods and People, with the goal of protecting the vulnerable and depleting forestry of the UK from many threats.

Trees and forests have always played a vital role in our history and culture, a fact recognised by the 1217 Charter of the Forest, signed by Henry III. It helped guarantee access to Britain's royal parks and forests to its citizens, whose livelihoods depended on their accessibility.

Its 2016 successor seeks to follow the same spirit by reflecting the still vital importance of trees and woodlands to individuals and to society as a whole.

Connection

But why do we need it? Well, our increasingly indoor lives mean our connection to Britain's woodlands and trees is growing weaker. Public and political apathy towards woodland conservation is growing as a result, and at a time when the country's natural forestry is facing increasing and

unprecedented levels of threat: urban development, pests and diseases, climate change.

Despite these changes, many of us who live in vast urban areas like London still value the pockets of woodland we have left. Local green areas such as Highgate Woods and Cherry Tree Wood provide visitors with places to appreciate nature and enjoy themselves. They are places where children can play, owners can walk their dogs and people can relax and take in the sun during the warmer seasons.

The charter will be rooted in significant personal memories of trees and woodlands from people from all walks of life, to demonstrate their significance. The Trust invites all readers to send in their personal memories and stories online at treecharter.uk/share-your-story.

Lucky Luca lands on her four paws

By Sheila Armstrong

It's a long way from a dog pound outside Dublin to East Finchley but that is the journey that Luca, a handsome white Springer cross, took just over a year ago. First-time dog owners Jackie and Mike Randall are thrilled with Luca and she is thrilled with them.

It is a very good match. She is a happy, friendly dog who has adapted well to her new life, enjoying her walks in Cherry Tree Wood and on the Heath. Jackie describes her as a gift and fun to be with.

Jackie and Mike spent a long time chatting to dog owners, researching both suitable breeds and dog rescue organisations before they were ready to take on a dog. In the process they discovered Enfield Dog Rescue and met Mary Scully who has been rehoming dogs for over 35 years.

A great lover of dogs, Mary has 14 of her own. She brought Luca over here from Ireland just before Christmas 2014, and within a week of meeting Mary the Randalls had their dog.

Luca had some basic training



Luca with Jackie Randall. Photo Mike Coles

before the Randalls got her and they have taught her quite a lot more. Plans for the future include more walks, and her quiet but friendly personality suggests the possibility of a career for Luca

as a Pet Pal visitor in hospitals.

Rescued dogs often make excellent pets. Contact www.enfielddogrescue.org, email enquiries@enfielddogrescue.org, or phone 020 8482 9372.

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Vet vacancy

The Finchley branch of the RSPCA is looking for someone with a love of animals to take the part-time role of veterinary animal welfare assistant.

The job includes managing the reception of the charity's Finchley clinic two evenings per week, and admin duties for a couple of mornings or afternoons a week.

The pay rate for the role is £8.65 - £10.00 per hour including London weighting. Apply to Monica Liljeroth/Emma Prosser by emailing: rspcafinchley@gmail.com or phoning 07557 959690. Closing date for applications is Monday 25 April.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Coffee served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a *flourishing* social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy, on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir.

Experienced singers are always welcome.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>