



The East Finchley ladies football team training at the Archer Academy. Photo Mike Coles

Action and glory... every Monday evening!

By Erini Rodis

As the ball bounced off her left foot it formed a perfect arc over the goalie before settling into the top-right-hand corner of the net.... what a goal! Just some of the action at East Finchley Women's Football Club, which was started by Hannah Forster and Alisha Davis 18 months ago after they found few other women's sports teams locally.

Thanks to word of mouth and excellent structured coaching by Andy Francis, the club has become well established, and any beginners are fast transformed from hand-balling 'oops sorry' players into a fierce competitive force. "I always thought football was boring to watch," says Sarah G, "but after the first night my competitive streak came leaping out and I thought it was so much fun, and a really great way to keep fit. I don't think I'm particularly good at playing but I love it so much it doesn't matter." Verity was "mercilessly coerced

into it by local friends; now it's a major high point of every week. The timing means you start the week with some virtuous exercise and you've even put the kids to bed first. Female football in your 40s, who knew? "So whether you want to get fitter, make new friends, or hone your skills so you can join in better with your kids down the park, come along to the club at the Archer Academy in Eagans Close, N2, any Monday night from 8pm to 9pm for a free trial. You might just be surprised. Find out more at www.facebook.com/EFWFCclub.



Before kick-off: The team ready for training. Photo Mike Coles

Frustration over lack of progress on pavilion building

By Diana Cormack

It is 30 years since the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood fell into disuse. Children who attended the nursery group once held there may now have children of their own and the days when its changing rooms were used for sporting events have long gone.

Work stalled

Three decades ago, like today, there were differing opinions on what should happen to the building. Though many were in favour of razing it to the ground and letting nature take its course, others hoped it could be put to good use in a way which would benefit the community. Over the years some suggested projects came to nought, whilst the amount of dilapidation and vandalism increased.

Then three years ago hopes were raised when work actually began on what was purported to be a coffee bar. The work gradually came to a halt after several months, due it seems to unforeseen problems involving construction and the agreement between the lessee and Barnet Council.



Dilapidated: The pavilion. Photo by Diana Cormack

Still no report

Despite concerns constantly raised about the safety of the building and its effect on the vicinity, locals are still being kept waiting for a decision to be made.

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood submitted a petition to Barnet Council at the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee in July 2016, signed by over 600 local residents and asking for the derelict pavilion building to be made safe. At that meeting an officer from the Estates Department was asked to return with a detailed report.

Despite a brief verbal update,

the report was not ready for the following Area Committee meeting in October. The Friends now understand that the document will not be ready for the next meeting scheduled on 16 February either.

Debbie Linton, of The Friends, said: "We are now liaising with the council about the lack of progress on the report, especially highlighting health and safety concerns ahead of the many visitors to the wood during the summer months. If you would like more information or to come to any of our meetings please email info@cherrytreewood.co.uk."

Tasks wanted

Runners from the Good Gym depart from the Phoenix Cinema every Tuesday evening at 6.45pm and they are looking for tasks they can help with while they are out on their run.

Do you have a venue, a club or an organisation that needs a helping hand from 12 keen DIY-ers? Litter picking, painting, repairing... anything is considered as long as it can be completed in about 30 minutes. Send your ideas or questions to pennie@goodgym.org.

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