



Speak up for your favourite footpath... before it's lost forever

By Roger Chapman

Do you walk around East Finchley using The Walks, The Causeway, the path between Stanley Road and Market Place or on one of the many other footpaths in the area? Well, now's the time to make sure your favourite historic path in East Finchley is on the map or you might lose it.

Record and protect

The Finchley Society, working with the local Ramblers Association group, is looking to identify footpaths that may need to be recorded to protect their status. This is where you can help. If you use a footpath

is much easier to protect against development.

Add more green dashes

Barnet Council holds a definitive map which is available to view at their offices but it does not include all urban



Busy thoroughfare: The Walks, near Leopold Road.

locally and are not sure if its protected as a public right of way drop an email to me, roger.chapman99@btinternet.com, stating where it starts and where it finishes so that we can check it out.

The first day of 2026 is the cut-off date for adding historic paths to what is known as the definitive map: the official record of public rights of way in an area. When a path is on this map, it not only means we have a right to walk on it, but it

footpaths. Many historic urban routes such as The Walks, which in the main follows the edge of the old Finchley Common in East Finchley, are not recorded.

The routes that are recorded are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map marked with green dashes. Don't be deceived by some of the main recreational footpaths that exist locally. A large part of the Capital Ring and Dollis Valley Green Walk are not public rights of way.

Routes can be added to the definitive map either using historical evidence or by providing witnesses who have used the route for 20 years. There is now a deadline of 31 December 2025 for claims using historical evidence, so it makes sense to get going on this while it can still be easily done. Act now or we could lose these footpaths forever!

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Wave of walkers: Friends head out through Highgate Wood on the Big Fun Walk. Photo Andrew Prod Photography.

Glad of the shade on a sizzling Big Fun Walk

By David Melsome

Those who took part in the Big Fun Walk in aid of the North London Hospice on the first weekend of May were blessed with one of the hottest days of the year so far when London's parks and tree-lined roads were looking their very best.

More than 1,400 people set off from East Finchley tube station on Sunday 6 May to walk the nine miles through Cherry Tree Wood, Highgate Wood, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park and St James's Park to West-

minster. It was the biggest turn-out yet for this annual event, which is on track to raise £130,000.

Director of fundraising Robin Langrishe said: "Supporters young and old joined the event and the youngest

participant was just five years old! We had record numbers for this year's Big Fun Walk and they have raised an incredible amount of money which will go towards funding vital patient care in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey."

Could you help with local animal welfare?

By David Melsome

Animal lovers are being invited to become trustees for the local district branch of the RSPCA to look after its work and affairs in Finchley, Hendon, Golders Green and Edgware.

The branch has two very successful charity shops in East Finchley and North Finchley raising much needed funds for welfare work and is looking for even more ways it can help local animals.

Branch manager Emma Prosser said being a trustee was a very important role and could be very rewarding. Most people aged 18 or over are eligible to become a trustee and you would need to become a member of the RSPCA.

You would need to be able to work with people and have good interpersonal skills. You do not need to be an expert although commitment, common sense and the ability to be objective are vital. Specific skills such as finance, fundraising, project management, business experience,

awareness of employment or charity legislation can be useful, but are not essential.

New RSPCA trustees are provided with a guidance document and asked to attend a training course which provides information about their role and responsibilities. Then the ongoing commitment can be

just a few hours a week.

Ongoing support is also provided by regional and national RSPCA staff in addition to any additional training provided by the relevant branch. For more information email the RSPCA on admin@rspcafinchley.org.uk or call Emma on 07557 959690.



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