



Tyred out: Mechanic Stevie Barrow in a shot from the charity calendar. Photo: Debbi Clark.

## Calendar girls from the car workshop

Who says being a garage mechanic can't be glamorous? The team at London's first all-female car workshop make greasy boiler suits look chic in a special photo shoot for a 2020 charity calendar.

And the Spanners With Manners mechanics pulled in the star power of their friend, actress Sadie Frost, to join them in some of the photographs, all shot at their garage in Long Lane, N2.

It was a cold day in November but professional photographer Debbi Clark and a make-up artist made sure everyone looked their best. Ideas and styling for the shots came from garage owners Siobhan Murphy and Laura Kennedy, along with their colleagues Megan, Stevie and Emma.

"It was amazing to do but a little scary," said Siobhan. "Sadie is a professional but none of us had ever been in front of a proper photographer before. To

be honest, we were pretty stiff to start with but after a while we all loosened up and had fun."

### Arts for children

Every penny raised from sales of the full-colour calendar will go to the Sir Hubert Von Herkomer Arts Foundation which provides free after-school clubs in arts subjects and arranges excursions to art galleries, theatres and exhibitions for children aged five to 18 across England.

You can find out more about the charity and reserve a copy of the calendar, featuring a different photo of the Spanners With Manners team every month, at [vonherkomerfoundation.org/shop/](http://vonherkomerfoundation.org/shop/) for £16.99.

**St Mary's Catholic Church**  
279 High Road N2 8HG  
[www.stmaryseastfinchley.org](http://www.stmaryseastfinchley.org)



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## Search starts for ways to clean up the air we breathe

By Ruth Anders

Did you know that typical Londoners spend 90% of their time indoors, that every bus shelter and set of traffic lights is a toxic air hotspot and that 52% of journeys that could be done on foot in Barnet are made by car?

Around 50 people streamed into Martin School, East Finchley, in mid-October to hear these and other messages, as well as ask lively and sometimes confrontational questions.

### Eco Team and more

But this was not before eight young Martin School Eco Team students had made a well-researched and impassioned plea for more action relating to the air we breathe. These children have been involved with a clean air school project, and are probably better informed than most of us. One of their many initiatives includes the growing of eco-friendly plants to counter air pollution.

Under the chairmanship of East Finchley Community Trust's Kate Brown, audience members heard about the London Assembly's aim to get 80% of London journeys achieved on foot, by bicycle or public transport. Assembly member Leonie Cooper stressed the value of 20mph speed limits in reducing air pollution.

Tamara Djuretic, Director of Public Health and Prevention for Barnet Council, explained the council's ongoing initiatives such as the mapping of air quality hotspots against childhood asthma and the planned New Year anti-idling campaign.

us all think about opening our house windows more often and pausing before taking our cars half a mile when we could walk. One Creighton Avenue resident raised his concern about noxious fumes resulting from local allotment bonfires.



Clean break: Residents at the meeting on air quality.

### Audience views

Much excitable discussion followed about future goals including the reduction of four-wheel drive cars on our streets and planted green walls to replace metal fences around schools. Suggested tips made

Leonie, Tamara, Kate and East Finchley's three ward councillors promised to take all the issues on board, although next steps are unclear at this stage. For the most part, this fascinating session raised more questions than it answered.

## Winter will be a busy time in the wood

Litter picks and a community orchard are part of the plans for the continued revival of Cherry Tree Wood. Roger Chapman, from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, brings the latest news.

### Clean-ups

Regular litter picking and general clean-up sessions are now planned for Cherry Tree Wood. Winter dates are the second Sunday of each month starting Sunday 8 December at 2pm. Take a break from shopping, de-stress and join us in our beautiful local wood for some litter-picking cheer. We will also be starting our leaf mould compost by clearing leaves off paths.

Further clean up sessions follow on Sunday 12 January, Sunday 9 February and Sunday 8 March, again all at 2pm. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Summerlee Avenue gate.

### Community orchard

The idea of a community orchard has been discussed in the past. Due to a recent course run by the London Community Orchard charity the idea has moved on rapidly.

The course was about designing a small orchard for a particular area. We chose the area between the tennis courts and the main path, pictured. Two ancient half dead roses in the bed have recently disappeared. As part of the course the Friends were entitled to choose five two-year-old fruit trees. We ordered Core Blimey, Cornish Aromatic and Ashmead's Kernel, all apples, Humbug, a pear, and

Flavour King, a mix of plum and apricot. While we wait on their delivery we're negotiating with Barnet Council to ensure they approve of us planting the trees (with guards) in the location shown.

Please drop us an email with your views on the project and join our email list to keep in touch with events in the Wood. We will also hold an event in the Wood after Christmas to consult with local people before

finally announcing a planting date. Email [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com)

Annual General Meeting  
Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 14 January at Monkey Puzzle Nursery, just outside the High Road entrance to the wood, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and take part. Meanwhile, keep up to date with the Friends on our website: <https://friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog/>

## What's happening with the pavilion?

A year has passed since the decision to demolish the disused pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was made public, yet it would appear that so far nothing has been done.

At the beginning of the year a Barnet Council spokesman told us: "We are currently awaiting quotations for the building to be safely demolished. Once these have been received and evaluated we will programme the works for as soon as is practicable." (*The Archer*, Jan 2019).

It was believed that this would happen once the money was available. However, it seems we will have to wait a while for the crumbling structure to be dismantled.



Fenced off: The pavilion last month.

The latest statement from Barnet says: "The contractor is currently undertaking a series of pre-start works, including arranging for the disconnection of utilities, after which the building will be demolished."