



App-y neighbours find perfect way to keep in touch

By David Gritten

You may be looking for a reliable cleaner. Or someone in your street has left their car lights on and you'd like to alert them. Perhaps one of your neighbours could recommend a piano teacher?

More and more people are finding solutions to problems like these via What'sApp, the free messaging app that people can access on their mobile phones.

And in several N2 streets, including Sedgemere Avenue, Manor Park Road, Deansway and Hertford Road, residents have formed What'sApp groups specifically to keep in touch with their neighbours.

Catherine Godward and two friends founded the What's App group on Manor Park Road some three years ago: "The original aim was to organise a street party and it grew from that," she recalls. Before long, residents began asking for recommendations about tradespeople, or using the group as a 'freecycle' to facilitate giving things away.

The residents have organised sponsored walks, the planting of a Christmas tree, and sometimes they even alert each other when the moon looks particularly spectacular. "None of this would have happened without a medium to communicate in our busy lives," notes Catherine. "As soon as someone new comes to live in the road, they are invited into the group. We all get something out of it. It's a helpful resource."

On Hertford Road, the What'sApp organiser Amelia Lasserson was herself a Manor Park Road resident: "I got the idea from there," Amelia admits. "To be honest, I was looking for a babysitter for my children, so it wasn't entirely selfless. We posted leaflets through everyone's door asking who wanted to join a What's App Group, and did anyone have teenage children or anyone else who might like to babysit? A few people got back to me and then the word spread."

Indeed it did. Here are a few of the topics and questions raised by her neighbours via WhatsApp:

- Can anyone recommend a good locksmith?
- Foxes: troublesome pests, or beautiful creatures to leave food out for?
- Anyone want to buy a balance bike?
- We love getting bats in our garden at dusk
- There's a car in the street with a window left open...
- A suspicious moped rider was seen walking down a resident's side entrance...

"A group like this can do so many things," says Amelia. "It's hugely useful. The by-product is that it does eventually create a real sense of community and people helping and asking things of each other.. We'd all be a bit 'closed doors' otherwise."

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Convivial Lunch Club

The North London Probus Club welcomes retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS men and women on the third Wednesday each month for lunch and a talk at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 20 November: Howard Jones, Lecturer and tour guide at Kenwood House, illustrates his talk Art and Celebrity in Georgian London with paintings from the Iveagh Bequest of actresses, courtesans, mistresses and other celebrated ladies.

Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

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 **RICS**



Gone batty: Roger Chapman and Michelle Collins in Cherry Tree Wood.

Bird and bat box building in the wood

By Debbie Linton

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood held a very successful bird and bat box making day on Sunday 22 September. New patron Michelle Collins joined chairman Roger Chapman as he prepared the wooden kits.

Children and adult visitors listened carefully about the differences between bird and bat boxes, and how to approach putting them together. Everyone then proceeded cautiously with hammers and nails. Great fun was had by all and altogether ten boxes were made. Look out for them in the wood.

Welcome, Michelle

The Friends are delighted to announce that television actress and presenter Michelle, a local resident, has agreed to become their new Patron. Her support is greatly appreciated.

Pavilion building to be demolished

The Friends have been updated by the council that demolition of the pavilion

building has been delayed by surveys. This has included establishing that there are no bats present. The pavilion is now due for demolition before the end of the financial year.

Bug, bird and mammal surveys

The Friends are still looking for volunteers with a knowledge or specialism in insect, bird and mammal surveys. Please do get touch if you think you can help.

Green spaces

As reported previously in *The Archer*, the Friends has helped introduce a new Green Spaces Network across Barnet. A second successful meeting was held with Matthew Gunyon, Head of Green Spaces, on 1 October. Many

issues across the borough were discussed, which will be followed up at the next meeting scheduled in January.

Forthcoming events

On Saturday 26 October anyone can drop in to help with a litter-pick at 10.30am. Alternatively there is a guided history walk through the wood at 2pm. From November the Friends plan to have litter-picks on the second Sunday of every month at 2pm. All equipment will be provided. An AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th January 2020, venue to be confirmed.

Get in touch

Email the Friends at friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com. Membership is free.

An archer from classical times

Artist Trevor Mill was inspired by his regular journey to his Friday night art class from East Finchley tube station to start a painting of an archer.

Instead of reproducing Eric Aumonier's famous tube station statue, however, Trevor went down a classical line to create a portrait of the mythical hunter Orion shooting his bow in the night sky with his dogs Canis Major and Minor beside him.

Trevor, of Fordington Road, N6, painted it over eight sessions, including two working directly from a live model. He said: "I've always liked the Archie sculpture and when I saw the pose of the model at art class, who was originally holding sticks, I thought I could make a homage to this piece of early 20th century modernism by making him into an archer. A study of the stars, mythology and archery then followed and the painting flowed on from there." Trevor has been attending life drawing classes at the Mary Ward Centre in Queen Square, WC1, for five years. He usually sells his work but is



thinking of donating this particular painting for free to go on show at the tube station itself.

Archer undressed: Trevor Mill's painting of Orion, inspired by East Finchley tube station's Archie statue.

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(Minister: John Lowrie)

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