



Big plans: Manager Niall O'Connor wants Madden's to become an entertainment venue

## Legends and live music on High Road

By John Lawrence

**High Road bar Madden's is bouncing back from a year of lockdown and reduced trading by rebranding itself as a venue for sports and live music.**

Still operated by leaseholder brothers Enda and Ronan Murray and with a new manager, Niall O'Connor, the long-established pub is booking a full calendar of live entertainers around its showpiece sports events.

Every Thursday night the bar will play host to a traditional Irish music band and every Friday there will be a showcase of vocalists from the Camden Acoustic Club, with each singer on stage for around 30 minutes. Live bands from across north London and beyond are being booked to play on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Niall hopes to make Mondays a special evening of the week with a mix of high-end tribute acts, including Luther Vandross, Rod Stewart and Neil Diamond, plus a Legends slot for special guests like former Spurs star Steve Perryman.

### All this plus pool

And on top of the live entertainment, Niall will be reviving the Madden's pool league, inviting teams and individuals to compete on the table in the upper room at the back of the pub.

"We are pushing the boat out to entertain the public and get them back," said Niall, who also runs a pub in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. "People are getting ready to go out and enjoy themselves again and we're excited about that."

The full calendar of entertainment and sports dates will be available in Madden's itself and tickets for live events can be bought there or by calling the bar on 020 8444 7444.

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## Café in the park is back in business

By John Lawrence

**Visitors to Cherry Tree Wood are rejoicing at the news that the park's café is about to open again after a long period with the shutters down.**

Business partners Sharon Hall and Sharon Harding are busy refurbishing the kiosk near the tennis courts and plan to open fully to customers on Sunday 29 August, just in time for East Finchley's Late Summer Social a week later.

"We have had so many people come up to us already while we're renovating the kiosk to ask if they can buy ice cream, water, coffee," said Sharon Harding. "We take that as a good sign! I think the



Kiosk leaseholders: Friends Sharon Harding and Sharon Hall

need for a café to open up again in the park is clear."

### Cherry Tree Café plan

The two friends have signed a five-year lease with Barnet Council to run it as The Cherry Tree Café and hope to turn it into a centre of activity for the park. They will be selling local produce and running events with local musicians and artists, as well as celebrating special dates like Christmas, Hanukkah and St Patrick's Day.

"We really want to give a bit of life back to the park and hope to use our social media channels to showcase what's happening in the local area," added Sharon. "The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have been so supportive and we are so looking forward to working closely with them."

### Menu-wise

The two Sharons say they want to start small and simple in order to get a feel for what people want. They will be selling Allpress coffee, Ariela gelato, Gustavo empenadas, pastries, sandwiches and a selection of vegan and non-vegan cakes, not forgetting a children's menu too.

They've had their eye on the vacant kiosk since last summer when they met at an exercise group. Sharon Harding has lived in East Finchley for 10 years and her twins go to primary school locally. Sharon Hall lives in Whetstone. With her children just finishing university, the pair said they were both ready to get stuck into a new project. Follow their progress on Instagram @cherrytreewoodscfe

## Festival is back as Late Summer Social

Continued from page 1

A new feature will be a well-being area where local practitioners will provide free sessions, including yoga, over-50's keep fit, mindfulness and breathing workshops. "We'd like to encourage everyone to bring a picnic blanket and settle down on the grass to watch the live acts," said Alison Roberts, from the organising team. "We've got several small performance and activity areas so we hope we can avoid the crowds and allow everyone to enjoy the festival safely."

The Late Summer Social officially forms part of Barnet Council's season of events called 'Discover Barnet Presents...' but receives no outside funding and is being independently organised by a hard-working team of volunteers from the non-profit East Finchley Festival CIC. The team said, "We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to our crowdfunder last year. We rely heavily on sponsorship from local businesses and kind donations from the public. Without your generosity, this would not be possible."

### Follow the festival

For more details on the Late Summer Social, visit [eastfinchleyfestival.org](http://eastfinchleyfestival.org), where you can buy official merchandise to help fund the event. You can also keep in touch on Facebook and Instagram @eastfinchleyfestival and on Twitter @eastfinchfest.

## Man arrested after 'approaching' children

**Officers investigating reports of a man approaching children in East Finchley have made an arrest.**

On Monday 5 July, police received a number of calls from members of the public who were concerned about the behaviour of a man in the High Road and Prospect Ring, N2.

Officers conducted an investigation and on Friday 23 July a 46-year-old man was arrested at an address in East Finchley on suspicion of stalking, a public order offence, possession of class A and B drugs and possession of an offensive weapon. He has been bailed pending further enquiries.

PC Chris Lewis of the North West Predatory Offenders Unit said: "I would like to thank the members of the public who have supported this investigation. I know the initial incident was discussed extensively on social

media groups and caused concern among local residents. We take those concerns seriously and have acted in arresting a suspect.

"I would now ask that we are allowed to see this investigation through to its conclusion and that the public refrain from further speculation, particularly online, so as to avoid prejudicing any potential future legal proceedings."

Officers continue to appeal for anyone who witnessed any behaviour out of the ordinary in either the High Road or Prospect Ring on Monday 5 July to come forward. They can call 101, providing the reference 2243/06JUL or alternatively, they can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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