



Greenery for everyone in the East Finchley Jungle

By Piers Reilly

A new initiative has come alive aiming to brighten people's lives with free plants and care advice. East Finchley Jungle is a community group formed with the goal of bringing houseplants to all, livening up our domestic settings while providing 'plant rehab' services for those of us struggling to keep our greenery alive.

Daisy Hale, local producer and artist, established the group after realising how limited access to green spaces was for some people during the year's lockdowns.

She says: "East Finchley is full of green space, allotments in particular, but these are not accessible for everyone." Daisy struck on the idea of houseplants, which require little space and can be selected based on each person's particular lifestyle.

Advice, supply, rehab

As an avid collector of plants for many years, she is full of practical advice for all situa-

tions. Low levels of sunlight? Desiccated your last fern from sheer neglect? Rotted roots plaguing your every step? No matter, she can find a plant for you and provide it free of charge, straight to your door, with a care booklet to help you on your way. If your plant falls ill, just contact the group and they will provide advice or even rehabilitate your plant for you until it is healthy.

Loneliness over the past year has been a constant for many people, and the East Finchley Jungle aims to alleviate this by providing a community focused on gardening that anyone can

be a part of.

Workshops on the way

Provided with a grant from the Grange Big Local, Daisy hopes to reach even more residents over the summer by holding workshops on plant care to encourage more people to get involved. To those who describe themselves as plant murderers she says: "Killing plants is part of owning them, it is an ongoing learning experience that anyone can undertake." So no need to be put off, contact the East Finchley Jungle and get learning. You can contact them and find out more via their Facebook and Instagram pages.



New leaf: Daisy Hale wants everyone to turn to cultivation.



Construction work: Resurfacing and re-seeding underway in Prospect Ring.

Noisy Sunday working halted at Prospect Ring

By Janet Maitland

Noisy and disruptive Sunday morning working by construction crews in Prospect Ring, N2, was halted after a resident complained and Barnet Council intervened. Work is currently nearing completion on road and pavement resurfacing in Prospect Ring following the construction of a new 14-storey tower block. The specified working hours within the license are Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm and Saturday 8am - 4pm.

"At 8am on Sunday 6 June, after listening to the loud construction noise and smelling hot tarmac from four large lorries blocking the road, I went down and spoke to numerous construction workers to ask them to stop," said the resident, who described their reaction as "increasingly aggressive".

After she left five messages on the Barnet Council noise complaints line, a council worker finally arrived at lunchtime and gave the construction workers 30 minutes to shut down and go. It took an hour for everyone to leave. "They told me the company will be contacted and fines explored and that being a subcontractor or behind schedule or Covid

were not excuses to break long-standing environmental laws," said the resident.

Apology from Barnet Homes

"We apologise to residents at Prospect Ring that highways works took place on Sunday 6 June," said a spokesperson for Barnet Homes. "These works were carried out without the knowledge of Opendoor Homes

or Hill, the site contractor. We have spoken to the subcontractor to ensure that Sunday working does not happen again.

"Hills will continue to inform residents in advance if work is to take place on a Saturday. We appreciate there has been disruption to residents during the construction of Gracie House and apologise unreservedly for any inconvenience caused."

'No contribution' to school next to tower block

By Janet Maitland

In an article in the June Archer about Prospect Ring residents' plans to ask Barnet Homes for compensation for the disruption caused by major building works over the last two years we used a quote given to us by Barnet Homes. It stated that the site contractors Hill had "donated money for laptops and also labour and materials to a local school and community gardening project".

Although the name of the school was not mentioned in Barnet Homes' quote and so was not used in the article, we had assumed this was Holy Trinity Primary School as it is next to the site where the new tower block is being constructed. We have since learned from Barnet Homes, however, that Hill was referring to their work with another local school.

A spokesperson for the governors of Holy Trinity

Primary School said: "There has been no contribution as yet from either Barnet Homes or the Hill Partnership to Holy Trinity Primary School, despite the disruption and continuing impact of this large-scale construction project right next door. "Contact has however been re-established following the article in the June edition, which hopefully will result in some meaningful support to the school and its pupils."

A fitting memorial to their many sacrifices

By Diana Cormack

On Sunday 6 June, 77 years after the event, the British Normandy Memorial was officially opened at Ver-Sur-Mer (see *The Archer*, November 2019). It commemorates the 22,442 men and women from 30 nations who gave their lives during the D-Day Landings and the subsequent Battle of Normandy from June to August 1944. Described as 'a memorial fit for heroes', it is the first time all their names have been put together.

Last year's scheduled opening was postponed due to the pandemic, which also prevented veterans and their families from travelling to France this year. So a parallel ceremony enabling them to participate took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

It included moving readings by past and present military

and, after all this time, several survivors were presented with the Legion D'Honneur. The veteran soldier whose suggestion started the struggle for the Normandy Memorial to be built placed his wreath at the arboretum altar made of military drums, then saluted his lost colleagues, an action repeated by many others.

Both sites are the responsibility of the Royal British Legion. For more information visit www.britishlegion.org.uk

