



Festive gathering: The crowd sings carols at the last Christmas lights ceremony in 2019

Christmas and Hanukkah lights

By David Melsome

After missing out thanks to the isolation rules last year, the East Finchley community will once again be able to come together for two festive lighting ceremonies early next month. The Christmas tree outside Budgens in the High Road will be lit up on Saturday 4 December at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy seasonal music and carols from The London Metropolitan



The menorah is prepared for lighting

Brass Band, Brookland School choir and Fixation Academy, along with free mulled wine and mince pies from Budgens.

The next day, Sunday 5 December at 4pm, Chabad of Finchley will light up a public menorah on the same corner outside Budgens on the final night of the eight-day Hanukkah holiday. The ceremony will be open to the entire community and will feature music, refreshments, gifts for children and festive fun.

Fruit from the orchard... and news from the wood

By Roger Chapman

The first fruits of the Cherry Tree Wood orchard trees have been sampled. Provided free by the London Orchard project two years ago the five fruit trees adjacent to the tennis courts have been developing nicely. There are three apple trees, one pear tree and a plumcot (a cross between an apricot and a plum)

They need time to develop a strong root system and so fruit is usually removed in the first few years of growth. Our trees had a stressful first year, including the hot dry spring of Lockdown One, and only survived with the great help of a lovely band of volunteers watering them each week.

Watering hasn't been such a problem this year. However, we removed most of the young fruits on the apple trees except one. It was from this tree that our group of litter pickers tasted at the end of the October litter pick.

The crunchy red apple we tried is called the Core Blimey. Bred to be strong, resilient and suited to London clay it does not suffer from any of the problems associated with the traditional Cox. We are looking forward to another good crop next year when in October 2022 we will hold our



Core Blimey: A Cherry Tree Wood apple

first Apple Day in the wood.

Litter picks

In other news from the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood we are reviewing the frequency of litter picks over winter because it has been difficult to find lots of litter on our last few dates, which is a very good thing. We will have a deep clean session when the undergrowth has died back in mid-late February 2022, and do other ad hoc litter picks as required.

Wildflower meadow

We will be planting a new wildflower meadow around the orchard trees and will need to protect the plants to allow them to establish themselves so you will see a barrier around a part of the orchard over winter.

Wood entrance

Our online petition to Barnet Council to extend Cherry Tree Wood, reported in *The Archer* last month with details also on our website, is going well. If you agree with this idea please sign the petition at <https://bit.ly/3vi9smx>. We will be presenting the petition to the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum in January 2022.

Substation site

A planning application by a property developer for a new shop, workspace and flats on the substation site on the High Road, on the other side of the railway from the wood, has been submitted to Barnet Council. We are concerned that because of its height the upper parts of it will be prominently visible from the wood and green area. We will be making comments on the application. You can make comments on the planning application on the Barnet website using reference 21/5217/FUL.

The Friends are always on the look out for new ideas and people to get involved in a wide range of activities. Do get in touch with us via email: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com or have a look at our website <https://bit.ly/3IKqJS9>

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Still arguing, boys?

Just when you thought it was safe to wallow in Adele's latest misery-fest, two old blokes at the bar decide to have a row about who's the most rock 'n' roll of them all. Yes, folks, Mick and Paul are at it. So very 1960s, so very The Beatles v The Stones.

Back when The Beatles had just been invented, The Stones were the new kids on the block. Unlike the clean-cut and smartly suited Fab Four, the Stones were the scruffy gang you wanted to join because they annoyed your parents.

The thing was, The Beatles weren't the goody-two-shoes that their image suggested. They were as much a gang as the Stones would ever be, but it was Paul and his pals who got invited to the Palace for their MBEs, and I guess that didn't help relations.

What helped even less was McCartney describing The Stones as just a blues cover band and Jagger saying that The Beatles couldn't talk because they'd never done an arena tour. Just like two old blokes jostling in the pub.

In these mean and vicious times, does it really matter? Adele has just bared her soul and her divorce for a fourth mega seller, Cliff has just finished his Look Out I'm 80 tour, and Coldplay's next tour will be all about carbon-neutrality.

So let's get down to reality. The reason why The Beatles didn't do arena tours was because they hadn't been invented then. But they did play the largest gig for its time at the Shea Stadium in 1966. Others have played to more people in other arenas since but The Beatles got there first.

And what about the blues covers? We have to go back to the beginning, because The Beatles started off playing rock 'n' roll and then got into American soul and R 'n' B. Their first albums are stacked with songs like *Twist and Shout* and *Money*, and some of their early hits sound like they are only a chorus away from Motown.

The Stones? They started out as blues purists and only got creative in about 1965. After Brian Jones died, they decided to go back to the blues and become the best bar band in the world. It sure as hell worked for Mick and the boys, and even if there's only Mick, Keith and Ronnie left, they've stuck to the same riffs ever since.

Ok, they've finally decided that playing *Brown Sugar* is no longer cool. But Paul doesn't do the *Frog Chorus* either.



Motley crew: The band of pirates helping to raise funds in Madden's. Photo Mike Coles

Yo, ho, ho and a bottle of... lemonade, please

Why are pirates called pirates? Because they Arrr. That joke may well have been told a few times during the Talk Like A Pirate family fun day run at Madden's Bar in the High Road, N2 on Saturday 18 September. Mums, dads and children all turned up in various combinations of eye patches, striped shirts and pirate hats to help raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Madden's manager Niall O'Connor said: "Shiver me timbers! It turned out to be a fun day for all concerned and we hope to do it every year."

FUN and MUSIC for BABIES and TODDLERS in N2 on TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS at 10am



with
LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT
ON VIOLIN AND GUITAR
at EAST FINCHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH,
Creighton Avenue



<https://www.facebook.com/teddybearsclub>
<https://www.facebook.com/SteppingStonesEastFinchley>
or text 07836 284538