



ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY



Green shoots: Volunteers survey the site for a tennis court-size forest on the edge of Hampstead Garden Suburb

Mini forest to be planted on roadside green space

By John Lawrence

An open space on the border of Hampstead Garden Suburb is to be given its own mini forest as part of an initiative to reintroduce native tree species and wildlife.

The Tiny Forest will be about the size of a tennis court and will be located on grassland alongside Mutton Brook, close to the junction between the A1 and the North Circular.

Environmental charity Earthwatch has planted dozens of such forests around the country and this will be the first in Barnet. The charity says they are dense, fast-growing woodlands that provide benefits for wildlife and people alike.

Organisers are appealing for volunteers to help with the planting of around 600 trees on

the site on Thursday 24 February. After that, people will be able to get involved in looking after the site by litter picking and weeding.

Community-building

Paul Salman, Barnet organiser for volunteer group GoodGym, said: "A Tiny Forest is something that people get very excited about. They quickly see it as a really positive community-building activity, so they want to get involved."

"The high-density planting brings all the benefits of a forest, like wildlife habitats,

carbon capture and others, but in an urban-friendly size. It is also an opportunity for local people to reconnect with the environment and their local community."

If you want to help plant the Tiny Forest or to get involved in any way, please email the volunteer coordinators at tiny-forestbarnet@gmail.com. You can find out more about Tiny Forests at <https://earthwatch.org.uk/>

Bonfire policy under review

Plot holders at an allotment association in East Finchley are being asked to give their views on bonfires in the light of health concerns about air pollution.

A survey has gone out to members of East Finchley Allotments, off Plane Tree Walk, N2, asking for details about what they burn currently and for ideas about other ways to dispose of or recycle green waste.

As reported previously in *The Archer*, residents in neighbouring Creighton Avenue and staff at Martin Primary School immediately next door have raised concerns about bonfire smoke drifting on to their properties from the allotments.

The East Finchley Allotments committee say they will use the survey results to inform their future bonfire policy. The current bylaw for the site states that bonfires can be lit any time between October and April except before 1pm on Sundays, and only after 5pm on the first Wednesday of each month between May and September.

Zero waste collection points are spreading through East Finchley

Organisers from recycling project *Bin There, Donate That* will speak at the next meeting of community group *N2United* at the Constitutional Club in The Walks, N2, on Thursday 10 February. Everyone is welcome to come along and hear more. Meanwhile, the project's *Emma Frampton* gives us an update.

Collection points

We have discovered that **Everything Electrical** and **EF Electrical**, both in the High Road, N2, accept a range of dead electrical bits like bulbs and Christmas tree lights.

Nova Dental practice, on East End Road, next to the Bald Faced Stag pub, collects the following: electric toothbrush heads and packaging, interdental 'TePe' brushes and dental floss boxes.

And don't forget that **Oakdale Pharmacy** collects used tablet blister packs and **Stewart Duncan** opticians accept unwanted glasses. Again, both are on the High Road. More recycling points are appearing all the time so keep an eye on our website or Facebook group for the latest list. Details below.

Your ideas

We're still keen to get new ideas for the project and offers of help. Please take just a few minutes to fill in our questionnaire at this link: <https://forms.gle/1n2fwEbxicvqHKHi9>. Do leave your contact details if you'd like to volunteer with us.

Local charities

We are particularly interested in hearing from organisations collecting things for people who have recently been rehomed (sheets, pans etc) or those working with homeless people who need socks, old jumpers and clothes. Or maybe you work with children or the elderly and need stationery and similar materials. Let us help you by finding a regular collection spot and/or advertising your requirements.

Email the project team at: bintheredonatethat@gmail.com. Visit their website at <https://bintheredonatethat.wixsite.com/reuse>, and join them on Facebook by searching 'Bin There Donate That'.

Bob's one-man war against litter

By Diana Cormack

Since the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood paused their litter picking for the winter months, one dedicated member of the group has carried on alone. Each weekend Bob Janes has been litter-picking through parts of the park and its environs.

Bob tells us that he started a long time ago. In his teens he worked in Broomfield Park, and later round the streets of Southgate, cutting grass and picking litter. He thinks that this has given him the habit of noticing things that don't belong.

After the Friends' picking was put on hold for the winter, Bob started noticing just how much rubbish there was along Park Hall Road, where he lives, so he ventured out one Sunday to clean that up, filling a bag in that one street alone. Then he moved on to the Wood.

The litter he finds is mixed: mostly cigarette ends, discarded masks, odd bits of packaging, bits of builders' left-overs, tissues, coffee cups, bottles and cans. Pictured is Bob's New Year's Day haul, much of it, including the wheelbarrow, from what appeared to be a little encampment not far from the playground.

Bob gradually expanded his picks to include the alleyway



Load of litter: Bob's barrow

through to Brompton Grove and onwards to the area near the bus stop on the High Road, all good areas for finding cans and bottles, mostly vodka.

Bob appreciates the occasional thanks he gets from passers-by and he was given an honourable mention at the Friends' annual meeting last month.

The Friends' regular monthly picks, the Cherry Pickers, resume on Sunday 13 February between 2pm and 3pm. All volunteers are welcome and with Bob's admirable efforts they may find less litter to pick up than in previous months.



Chosen spot: The Tiny Forest will be sited between Mutton Brook and the North Circular

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