



Letters



Twinkling: Dozens gathered for the switching on of the tree lights, see letter below. Photo Mike Coles

Fir tree fundraiser

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed the carol singing and the turning on of the Christmas lights outside Budgens at the start of December. Thank you to everyone who organised this event for the community. Everyone who was there seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The fir tree planted in the flower bed was made to look as cheerful as possible with lights and tinsel but perhaps the time has come to consider a more healthy replacement in time for next Christmas. Could we set up a fundraiser where everyone could contribute a few pounds to buy a better specimen that we can all be proud of?

Margaret Banks, Long Lane, N2.

Happy to wait

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter from Lawrence Robinson in your November edition about queuing for vaccina-

tion, I too visited Torrington Park Health Centre on 16 October to have my booster jab.

I am 80 years old and walk with a stick. I left home in very good time because I wasn't entirely sure where the centre was and I needed a long bus journey to get there.

I arrived in good time and joined the queue for the vaccination area. I joked with an elderly lady that we might get our jabs in time for Christmas and I offered to fetch a chair for her but she refused. Neither of us was overly troubled by the long wait.

My appointment had been for 11.30 and I had my jab at 11.15. I was home again just after 12.00. My only gripe was the time it took to get to and from the centre in the first place.

Your correspondent should learn not to knock the NHS workers. We are in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Nothing is likely to be perfect.

Chris Mathewson Park Hall Road, N2.

Recycling advice

Dear Editor,

I love the project Bin There Donate That that you described in your December edition. May I request that you link this topic with some follow up on the very dismaying article in September about what happens to our bin-collected waste?

That piece suggested it was actually better to put our plastic waste in the grey bins for incineration or landfill than to put it into the recycling bin, because plastic needs 50% new plastic added before it can be recycled? Surely there is something we can do about this?

Monica Lanman, Address supplied.

Editor's note: The recommendation to put plastic into grey bins in the September article referred to by Monica applied to single-use plastics only, such as films and wrappings. Any packaging with a recycling symbol should still be placed in blue recycling bins.

Beauty business is a dream come true

By David Melsome

A year after going into business for herself and opening her own beauty salon in East Finchley, Niny Almazo says she couldn't be happier. Niny Beauty Studio, in East End Road, has been a big success in its first 12 months, earning 258 five-star ratings out of 260 online reviews. Before opening the salon, Niny worked in many different salons in Spain and London and she says she had long dreamt of being able to work with her own ideas and vision of what beauty treatments should be.

"People deserve special moments in their life; far away from the stress of their job and life and I am honoured to be able to be part of those moments," she says. "For this reason, it has been very important to build a team of people who share the same standards and passion. Yolanda and Ximena are now part of my team and, like me, they give their all for our clients.

"After a year of being open, I could not be happier. Obviously, Covid made our lives a bit more difficult and I would be lying if I said that it has not been difficult on some occasions but today, I can say that my dream has come true."



Going strong: Niny Almazo celebrates the first year of her beauty salon. Photo @malsphotographyuk

Cherry Tree orchard grows ready for spring

Roger Chapman wishes a happy new year to all lovers of Cherry Tree Wood and looks forward to a busy time ahead.

Orchard planting

In early December we were gifted five sapling trees via the Barnet Multi Faith Forum and planted these in memory of all the people who have lost their lives in the Covid pandemic. These saplings should appear on the Royal Horticultural Society Roots of Remembrance tree mapsoon. Visit www.rhs.org.uk

In March we will be receiving via the Woodland Trust another 30 trees to plant. We will also be ordering a plum tree to add to the orchard area by the tennis courts in order that, hopefully, our plumcot will be able to have a nearby pollinator and bear fruit this year.

Spring ahead

We planted 3,000 snakes head fritillary and bluebell bulbs in the area where the old pavilion used to be and are looking

forward to them coming through in early spring.

We will be taking part in the East Finchley Pollinator Project including a seed swap near the Cherry Tree Café (lovely coffee, tea cakes and snacks available) in March and our wonderful gardening group will continue its planting programme throughout the year. The water bottle filler mentioned in The Archer last month is now on order and should be installed near the orchard area soon.

Get involved

If you want to join the Friends (it's free!) or come along and find out more at our Annual General Meeting on Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 11 January then please do drop us an email to: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Coffee morning for community

Volunteers from the Tenacious Life Church (TLC) are inviting everyone to come along to their coffee mornings on Wednesday mornings at the community centre in Tarling Road, N2.

Pastor Karl Garwood, who leads TLC says: "This will help us to find out the real needs of our community. It's also an opportunity for those of a religious persuasion to pray for any needs or problems."

Centre manager Jon Woolfson for YMCA London City and North says: "The YMCA is eager to attract local residents to the centre to chat and get to know each other."

The first coffee morning will take place on Wednesday 19 January from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Tea, coffee, homemade cakes and other light refreshments will be available for a small donation. Everyone is welcome.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail news@the-archer.co.uk Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England. You are welcome to join us for: Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and Weekday masses as advertised on the website. Face masks must be worn for the time being. Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/ The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website. Prayer requests are gladly accepted. For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315 Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com or check out our website: http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk