



New faces welcome at historic social club

The East Finchley Constitutional Club is throwing wide its doors for an open weekend to encourage more people to come and enjoy its unique atmosphere and use the facilities it has to offer.

The club, situated in The Walks, N2, close to the Market Place Playground, has approximately 180 members who enjoy

the bar year-round and meet for quizzes, an annual summer barbecue and a Christmas party. But it also has a great func-

tion room available for anyone to hire, which can host up to 100 guests with a stage, plenty of tables and chairs, a sound system, projector screen, fully functioning kitchen... and a disco ball. Anyone hiring the function room also gets use of the large back garden.

The function room has been used by local organisations such as N2United, East Finchley Festival, Grange Big Local and other resident associations. And the other hidden treasure is that the club has the only snooker room in the area.

Also for non-members there's weekly bingo every Sunday at 7.30pm as well as fitness classes every weekday at 9.15am and personal training available with Sally at lungefitness.co.uk. The directors and members of the club are hoping that everyone will come along for the open weekend on Friday 22 from 5pm to 11pm and Saturday 23 July from 2pm to 10pm to see what's on offer.

Local history

East Finchley Constitutional Club was opened by a group of businessmen in 1901 and remained open during both world wars. It is one of the oldest limited companies in the UK.



Drink and a chat: Members enjoying the garden at the Constitutional Club

Queen bees welcome at pollinator palace

The insect house built by volunteers at the East Finchley Pollinator Project in Cherry Tree Wood received coverage on BBC London News over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June, unsurprisingly as it has been named 'Btingham Palace'.



Youth music orchestras set to perform

The Youth Music Centre Orchestras will be holding their next concert at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church in North Square, NW11, on Saturday 9 July at 1pm, with performances from Bach's Brandenburg concertos and excerpts from Carmina Burana and Carmen.

Ukrainians welcome

From this term YMC has opened its doors to all young Ukrainian musicians who have arrived in the UK and would like to take part in their programme of orchestras, chamber music, choir and composition, all free of any charge. Find out more at www.youthmusiccentre.uk



On the wall: Debbie Singer with the first set of mosaics she has designed. Photo Mike Coles.

A mosaic that will grow piece by piece

By Debbie Singer

If you have walked through Cherry Tree Wood recently, you may have noticed two new mosaic panels on the toilet block opposite the café. I made these as a result of a chance meeting with Kate Brown and Roger Chapman of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood.

I have been volunteering with the Friends gardening group since I moved to East Finchley in late 2020. I have enjoyed meeting local people as we plant daffodil and tulip bulbs or weed amongst the wallflowers.

"Just off to my mosaics class," I said as I bumped into Kate and Roger near the playground. Quick as a flash, Kate came back with "Would you like to make a mosaic for Cherry Tree Wood?" "Yes," I said with no hesitation. "It will go on the toilet block," said Kate. I laughed.

A different project

Having walked the length of The Bishops Avenue and across Hampstead Heath, I arrived at the London School of Mosaic, near Gospel Oak station, full of my new 'commission'. My teacher and fellow students were very excited about the project.

I started mosaics three years ago and, whilst other students make the most beautiful pictures, I have always made useful

objects: a tray, a soap dispenser, my house number for outside my new front door. The process is calming and mindful as you focus on colours, shapes and patterns, forgetting whatever was bothering you when you arrived at the class.

What will follow the fruit?

Kate, Roger and I agreed that the mosaic should be built up from ten panels and should reflect Cherry Tree Wood. The first two panels are of the fruit of the orchard by the tennis courts: the wonderfully named Core Blimey apple and an unusual striped Pysanka pear.

Future panels will include the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood logo, and birds, flowers and trees found in the park. The full mosaic will take a number of months to complete so the plan is to put panels up as they are ready. If you have suggestions of what image you would like on a new panel, do let the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood know via friendsofcherrytree-wood@gmail.com

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