



Green our street: Lynmouth Road residents Sally, Morley and Sara are looking forward to more trees.
Photo Zoe Norfolk

Green growth at last for the street with bare pavements

By David Melsome

East Finchley is lucky to be a pretty leafy area, which has always left residents in Lynmouth Road wondering why their street didn't have any pavement trees at all. They haven't quite got to the root of the mystery but they have found a way to do something about it by signing up to the Trees for Streets scheme.

This urban tree charity aims to get an additional 250,000 street trees planted nationwide over the next ten years by supplementing council budgets with public and corporate sponsorship.

People can sponsor a tree in their street for a donation amount of £250, and if the spot they've chosen is suitable their council will plant a 3-4 metre tall 'instant impact' tree the following winter, as well as caring for it during the first three years. If residents help out by watering the tree themselves, the donation amount reduces to £200.

Making Lynmouth leafy
Neighbours in Lynmouth

Road got together on their WhatsApp group and raised enough money to sponsor 19 trees. Haringey Council, one of the charity's partners, then sent a tree officer along to identify potential spots where trees could be safely planted.

Sally, a resident who's a gardener by trade, helped to choose trees that would complement each other, and the street now boasts a beautiful array of pear, cherry, crab apple, rowan, and junberry trees.

She said: "We wanted to have varieties that would attract wildlife to the street. I'm pleased every time I come home, the *Sorbus* crab apple tree

outside my garden gate looks fabulous. The trees make the street look so cheery."

Neighbour Morley, who kicked off the fundraising, added: "It's so great that we've come together to fund these trees as a community. The other neighbouring streets always looked so much better, but not any more."

Trees for Barnet too

If you live in Haringey, and would like a tree outside your house, visit treesforstreets.org/haringey. Barnet residents can complete an expression of interest form on the Trees for Streets website at treesforstreets.org and the council will be informed.

Tribute tells rip-roaring story of the greatest showman

By John Lawrence

The intriguing story of Victorian showman 'Lord' George Sanger is now told on the site in East Finchley where he once kept the paraphernalia and animals for his three-ring circus, including lions, tigers and elephants.

Mayor of Barnet Councillor Alison Cornelius last month unveiled a new information board provided by The Finchley Society in Park Farm Close, off East End Road, N2, on land once occupied by Sanger's 70-acre Park Farm.

The showman was internationally famous in the second half of the 19th century, touring his circus acts across Britain and Europe. Closer to home,

he would set up his big top in a field off the High Road where Martin School now stands, and parade his animals through the streets of East Finchley to draw in the crowds.

Sanger retired to Park Farm in 1905 and sold his business. He met a grisly end in 1911 when he was murdered with a hatchet by a disgruntled employee. Thousands of people attended his funeral.



Circus master: Mayor of Barnet Cllr Alison Cornelius with William Pettigrove, left, and Lorenzo Crick, from the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain unveil the plaque commemorating George Sanger.
Photo Mike Coles

Here's to the next 100 years



Finchley Bowling Club's centenary year began with a friendly fixture against old rivals West Finchley on Sunday 1 May. The match in Etchingham Park Road, N3, saw the home side overcome a team whose club was forced to close in 2016. The ex-West Finchley players re-grouped for this special occasion.

Plans for further celebrations during Finchley's centenary year included a celebration match against a Bowls England team on Tuesday 24 May. If you'd like to give bowls a try this summer, call Chris on 020 8455 5761.

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