



Never forgotten: Strawberry Vale residents plant a rose in memory of loved ones who died in the pandemic. Photo Mike Coles.

In memory of those who died

By Ruth Anders

When the pandemic swept through the Strawberry Vale Estate as it did throughout East Finchley, lockdown rules denied residents the opportunity to mourn those who passed away. On a warm afternoon in early May a special event was arranged to put this right.

The Octavia Hill Garden, next to the Green Man Community Centre, provided the perfect spot for a group of residents to come together to watch a rose bush being planted and to dedicate a bench inscribed "In memory of those we have loved and lost 2022".

Perhaps the most moving moment was when those mourning were given large paper butterflies on which to write messages and then tie them to a large rhododendron bush. Tears of remembrance were shed in the sunshine.

Councillor Alison Moore spoke on behalf of the Mayor of Barnet, who was delayed and arrived later. Backed by a pergola of tumbling wisteria and beds of lime green euphorbia, the residents watched the rose planting and the bench dedication. Green Man Secretary

Helen Shannon read a poem and the song *There's a Place for Us* from *West Side Story* was played softly over the speakers.

Supportive community

Tom Matthews, Chair of the Green Man Management Group (GMMG), told *The Archer*: "This is a very tightly knit community where it's like living in a goldfish bowl. Everyone knows everyone and we are all very supportive of each other."

Tom, who lost his father-in-law and mother-in-law to Covid, explained that the GMMG works closely with the Peabody Trust and Hope North London. "We hold a good many events here at the Centre including activities for two youth groups each week", he added, "and funds raised by the Centre also pay for special trips for local children."

After the formal proceed-

ings, those attending were given a delicious tea of sandwiches and scones. Previous GMMG Chair Vanessa Elsley told *The Archer*, "Quite a few residents haven't left their homes until today. This event has provided a great release for many in more ways than one". The sunny afternoon's activities left everyone with a sense of optimism.

Be Part of It Volunteers wanted

A new regular column compiled by N2United

The fantastic **East Finchley Festival** is back on Sunday 19 June in Cherry Tree Wood from 12pm to 6pm. The team still needs volunteers to help with the large numbers of visitors expected. Sign up for all or part of this wonderful day for various tasks including stewarding and selling raffle tickets. No experience necessary! It's where East Finchley people get together as a strong community. Find more info at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org/get-involved or contact volunteers@eastfinchleyfestival.org

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood always need helping hands for regular monthly litter picks and general maintenance; also interesting nature conservation work such as dead hedging, hazel coppicing, tree planting. Contact: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

The **East Finchley Pollinator Project** has a mission to bring the bees back to N2. The team seeks interested gardeners to help maintain a number of existing and develop new nectar café sites throughout East Finchley. Contact: efpollinators@gmail.com

Bin There Donate That is a successful local initiative, driven by Emma Frampton's passion to create a more sustainable neighbourhood. All types of help needed for research, liaising with EF shops to take in items for recycling/reusing, web and social media updates and project managing. Whether you have one spare hour a week or much more, email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com for more details.

Grange Big Local is the lottery funded community project with a host of exciting plans for their pocket of East Finchley. Find one which floats your boat! These include working on the community fridge, Universal Basic Income, digital inclusion, the underpass plans, carpentry in the community garden, school holiday activities, funding applications and community events. Get in touch at info@grangebiglocal.org.

The Archer is looking for volunteers to deliver the newspaper in any of the following roads and areas: Taring Road, Mansfield Heights, Manor Court, Doran Manor and Linksvie. Can you spare 30 minutes once a month? Email news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a free voicemail message on 0800 612 0748.



N2United is East Finchley's Community and Business Network. If you wish to be included in this column please send details to volunteer@n2united.co.uk. Max 60 words please.

Enjoy a June Jubilee jamboree

A community celebration for young and old celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, hosted by Age UK Barnet, takes place on Saturday 11 June 2022 from 11 am – 4pm at The Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, East Finchley N2 8LT.

There will be live music and entertainment; a bar and food; afternoon tea; tombola and raffle; plant stall; craft activities and games for the whole family plus a make-a-crown competition.

Entry costs £2 on the door, which includes a ticket to win raffle prizes including a luxury hamper, gym membership at

The Muswell Hill Club, a meal for two at The Engine Rooms and a massage at Serene Wellness, all in and around East Finchley.

You can also pre-book a traditional afternoon tea, promising sandwiches, cakes

and scones with all the tea you can drink, for just £3 per person! Half hour/ 40 minute slots are available from 11.30am until 3pm. To book afternoon tea, contact Teresa on 07502 989 403 or teresa.galagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk

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>

Stay alert

to scams

One-to-one support is available to any residents aged over 50 who have fallen victim to a money scam, as part of Age UK Barnet's scams prevention service.

Project manager Lindsey can work out if people need a call blocker, for instance, then arrange to get this set up. She can also check out any emails or companies people might be worried about.

Contact her by email at scamsawareness@ageuk-barnet.org.uk or by telephone on 020 8432 2217.

Letters

Cycle lane congestion ignored

Dear Editor

Barnet's previous Conservative-run Council responded to the criticism of the A1000 road scheme by making some improvements, mainly cutting cycle lanes and reducing their size (*The Archer*, May 2022).

They have not however addressed the main problem which is the congestion around East Finchley station, where jams arise due to the cutting of the road space for motorists in half.

They have refused to give figures I requested on the numbers of cyclists and cars in this area, on the basis that that this is the start of a new six-month trial.

Other boroughs are scrapping schemes of this type. But Barnet's plans persist in

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allowing congestion, with stop/start emissions, local rat-run diversions, and parking restrictions affecting local shops. After the change to a Labour Council it may be that a more rational approach will prevail and the people who have complained about the scheme will be listened to. It may even be that this scheme was one of the reasons for the demise of the previous council.

Barry H White,
Fordington Road, N6.