



# No funding to fix chronic flooding in the wood

By John Lawrence

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood have been told by Barnet Council that no funding is available to permanently drain the flooded areas that are spreading through the park.

As we reported last month, large parts of the grassland, parts of the woodland and low-lying areas close to the newly-refurbished tennis courts are now affected by surface water. The Friends group had appealed to Barnet Council and Thames Water to carry out urgent drainage works to avoid the park's amenities becoming out-of-bounds.

Barnet Council has promised to inspect the gullies within Cherry Tree Wood and to deal with any local flooding issues where it can. However, a long-term fix looks unlikely because the natural topography of the park means water runs off the raised wood into the open area.



Inundated: Standing water on the field. Photo Jackie Briggs

## Wetland suggestion

One solution that the council is considering is diverting this run-off into a purpose-built wetland area, which would store the excess water and become an environmental feature in itself.

However, that would require funding and currently there is none. Cherry Tree Wood is not on Barnet Council's priority list of 33 'critical drainage areas' across the borough where water levels are monitored and managed. Barnet Council has said it will keep exploring opportunities to find the necessary funding. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood say they are considering the council's response and what other options are open to them. The council has also pointed out that the surface water problem has been exacerbated over the last 12 months by several extreme rainfall events that have caused significant flooding in areas of Barnet and other London boroughs.



Absolute shower: The film crew running rain machines, left, during the High Road shoot. Photo Mike Coles

# Someone's raining on our parade

By Janet Maitland

An underwear commercial featuring a young woman modelling a Triumph bra was filmed outside La Gourmandise café on the High Road, N2, on the decidedly chilly morning of Thursday 17 February. The sun was out but this didn't help as the young woman was regularly drenched throughout the shoot by a rain machine stationed on the pavement. Between shots the crew tried to keep her from shivering by wrapping a coat round her. Let's hope her next shoot is on a warm beach somewhere.

# Activities build bonds between schools

Martin Primary and the Archer Academy in East Finchley are building bonds with activity sessions in which students from both schools take part. Year 6 students from Martin Primary visit the Academy every Wednesday to take part in scouts, dance, yoga and multi-sports. As spring arrives, they will be widening the choice of sessions to include rock climbing.



Ambassadors: Extended Curriculum lead Miss Le with Year 8 Archer Academy students

Students from both schools got together for a celebration assembly and teamwork certificates were awarded to those who took part, as well as special awards for

ambassadors from among the Academy's Year 8 students, who demonstrated leadership skills by supporting the running of the programme each week.



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