



Images among the trees that inspired them



Hanging space: A visitor to Coldfall Wood views art created by members of a group led by artist Laura Fox, pictured right sitting among the outdoor exhibition. Photos Mike Coles.

Local art group **Back To The Woods**, facilitated by artist Laura Fox, held their first exhibition in Coldfall Woods on Wednesday 5 July by hanging their works among the ancient trees that had inspired them. The group meet in the woods on the first Sunday of every month and have drawn together throughout the year, even on New Year's Day. Participant Mark Choueke said: "Being out in the woods and drawing with Laura is like a holiday. It's indulgent and uplifting. The excuse to be creative is indescribably high in value." Laura said the exhibition was a celebration of the wonderful participants who turn up each month, and the majestic ancient woods. For more information www.laurafoxartist.com

We won't be beaten on blister packs

Last month we reported that Oakdale Pharmacy in the High Road, N2, had been forced to stop accepting used tablet blister packs because the onward recycling point at Superdrug in North Finchley was no longer taking large bags of them.

Emma Frampton, from East Finchley's Bin There Donate That recycling project, hoped that the Superdrug branch would still accept smaller consignments or individual packs, as the company website stated. However, members of *The Archer* team and several readers told us that this was not the case. They had tried taking their blister packs there and were told the branch couldn't accept any as it wasn't a pharmacy. One enterprising reader then took his all the way to the Superdrug in the Seven Sisters Road, just off Holloway Road, N7, which is a pharmacy and did accept them.

Travelling that far isn't very convenient for most of us, of course, but Emma Frampton is determined not to be beaten. She has asked one of the volunteers on her team to investigate how they can reinstate

blister pack recycling in N2, as it was such a popular service.

They may look to recruit volunteers to take packs to the Superdrug stores that are participating or find a way to get them to the ultimate reprocessing centre. Watch this space for more details.



No longer collecting: Staff at Oakdale Pharmacy have paused blister pack recycling

How can we make life better?

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Those at the Town Team social discussed how any development should be approached, raising the question of funding and of how to encourage local residents and traders to take an interest. It was hoped that the rest of the High Road and adjacent areas would also benefit.

More residents

However, warnings were given about the proposed Great North Leisure Park redevelopment (*The Archer*, May 2023), with plans for high rise flats housing hundreds of people just on the other side of the North Circular. Not only will this have an effect on both North and East Finchley, necessitating more places in schools and on doctors' lists, but the often criticised 263 bus service along the High Road will face even more demand.

Coming up

There were useful exchanges throughout the evening. The first quarterly formal meeting of the Town Team will be on Thursday 14 September in East Finchley Constitutional Club. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. All are welcome.

The Town Team would love to hear more of your suggestions on how our High Road can be improved and welcome your ideas for what they should do next. You can contact them at eftownteam@gmail.com or visit www.ILoveN2.co.uk/townteam for more information.



Harvest festival: The food garden in fine fettle outside St Mary's Church hall.

Food garden feeds the food bank

By Kate Brown

It is hard to believe that just a few months ago this patch of ground behind St Mary's Catholic Church in the High Road, N2, was rough grass. As you can see from the photograph, it is now a remarkably productive garden. The plot is now providing a range of fresh produce for Finchley Foodbank, based in the church hall, including broad beans and potatoes. Another firm favourite has been young kale leaves which cook in no time.

All this has been a joint project by a group of parishioners who agreed the use of the land with Father Peter and brought on board a growing (no pun

intended) band of volunteers.

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