



Blue sky thinking: Visitors to Cherry Tree Wood lie back and appreciate the cloudscape above. Photo Mike Coles

# Amazing what you learn when you look up at the sky

By Diana Cormack

It was no surprise on the hottest Sunday of the year to see people lying around on the grass in Cherry Tree Wood. Many were stretched out hoping to get a late summer tan, but one group who were focussing skywards weren't interested in the sun.



# Funding is the key to improving High Road

By Ruth Anders

The East Finchley Constitutional Club was buzzing one evening in mid-September when East Finchley Town Team (EFTT) hosted its second formal open meeting. New arrivals joined previous attendees, when representatives from High Road shops, the Phoenix Cinema, Bin There Donate That, Friends of Market Place Playground, the Finchley Society, residents and all three of our ward councillors gathered to discuss matters of local interest.

The meeting focused on suggestions submitted at the London Festival of Architecture event in June as to how the High Road's appearance could be improved. While nothing can be achieved without funding, Chair Kate Brown stressed the importance of having an overall plan ready to submit when financial support is identified. EFTT's research into all possible funding avenues continues.

### Plans afoot

Local architects have worked together to produce preliminary plans including smaller incremental steps that could be achieved little by little. Suggested long-term improvements embrace more imaginative planting and better-designed seating areas outside Budgens with the aspiration to develop an attractive linear town square.

A professional infrastructure survey, air quality, safety, pedestrian flow and water foun-

tainments were all discussed alongside a possible statue of one-time resident George Michael.

### More green spaces

The majority agreed that efforts should be made, however modest, to continue developing green areas wherever the opportunity arises between the station and the North Circular. The East Finchley Pollinator Project has started the ball rolling with a generous donation of 1,000 daffodil bulbs, enabling a volunteer led community planting initiative this autumn.

The meeting was then introduced to EFTT's new website. Check out [www.eastfinchley.london](http://www.eastfinchley.london) to see more. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact EFTT at [eftownteam@gmail.com](mailto:eftownteam@gmail.com)

EFTT's next meeting on Thursday 12 October will focus on a repeat of the successful East Finchley's Got Talent event, planned for the New Year. Watch this space for details.

They had come to look at and learn about clouds in an event organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood to coincide with Cloud Appreciation Day a few days later on Friday 15 September.

They heard that it was a north London man who had greatly contributed to the study of clouds. Luke Howard (1772-1864), a manufacturing chemist and amateur meteorologist, who lived in Tottenham, became known as 'the namer of clouds' and 'the father of meteorology', coining the classifications still used today, including cumulus, stratus and cirrus. His *Essay on the Modification of Clouds* was published in 1803.

### Cloud-gazers

The numbers of cloud-gazers grew as the afternoon wore on and Muswell Hill-bound clouds scudded over, leaving those with threats of showers approaching from Hampstead Garden Suburb.

It was an enjoyable afternoon, perhaps one to encourage some participants to join the UK Cloud Appreciation Society which was established in 2005, just over 200 years after Luke Howard named them.

# Bingo nights

Bingo sessions have made a successful return to the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, N2. They are held on Monday evenings from 6pm to 9pm for anyone over 18. It costs £6 per evening with books sold from 6pm to 7pm. Go along to make new friends and maybe some money, too.

# New entrance to Grange estate for building work

By Janet Maitland

A temporary new way into the Grange estate in East Finchley has been proposed by construction company Stack London while they build two blocks of new homes next to the High Road and on Central Avenue, each with eight flats.

The special traffic entrance, which will only be used by construction vehicles, will be on Oak Lane and lead into Central Avenue. "It will have gates that will be locked at all times and attended by a Stack vehicle banksman," said Liam Buckley, site manager, who presented the plans to local residents on Tuesday 12 September at the Tarling Road community centre. "There will also be three operatives along the length of the route to manage any congestion."

Local residents had made the case that if construction vehicles were to use the current roads on to the estate, from Elmfield Road and King Street, there would be major traffic and parking disruption, as they are both single lane due to parking on both sides of the street.

At the time of going to press, Barnet Council had not yet made a decision on the proposal, so construction cannot yet begin. Stack says that the building work will take



New way in: The dotted line shows the proposed HGV route on to the Grange from Oak Lane

75 weeks once started, which should be sometime during the winter months. The company will be providing monthly newsletters from now on to keep



Expansion: Artists' impressions of the two new Grange blocks that will be built

A spokesperson from Elmfield Road Residents Association (ERRA), who support the new proposed route, said they would continue engaging with Stack to "ensure that the upcoming construction works minimise disruption to all local residents".

residents informed of upcoming actions on the site.

Detailed information about the Grange construction plan can be found on [www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/). Search using reference numbers 22/3544/FUL or 22/3539/FUL.

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