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Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

Festival finds new way to cover its costs

By Alys Wainwright

Organisers of the annual East Finchley Festival have made two major announcements: the event is now carbon neutral and it is moving into a new funding model to keep it thriving long into the future. The massively popular community party will be celebrating its 50th event when it takes place on Sunday 23 June in Cherry Tree Wood. The day will feature another stellar line-up of performers on two stages, plus artisan market stalls, children's activities and an array of food and drink.

In recent years, East Finchley Festival CIC has worked hard to make the festival more sustainable by banning single-use plastics and disposables, getting rid of the diesel-powered rides and introducing reusable and degradable packaging.

Last year, they went one step further by running one stage entirely on solar power, provided by SouthEast London Community Energy, and the other with renewable HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel.

its long-term future at risk.

Moving away from single organisations sponsoring 'big ticket' items like the main or community stage, they are now looking for as many local businesses as possible to contribute to sponsoring 'the festival' as a whole.

"The new model will make it possible for more local businesses to get involved, and will allow us to offer all our sponsors better visibility for a smaller outlay by adding



Packed park: Festival-goers in Cherry Tree Wood in 2022

Now, following an audit by Josh King of East Finchley-based sustainability consultancy, Leaf Ray, the festival has offset its emissions by to become carbon neutral.

Leaner funding model

At the same time, the team has decided to put in place a new funding model. The festival is and always has been free to anyone who turns up to enjoy it but still costs a large amount of money to run each year, for example to cover the hire of the park and equipment.

Mike Hughes from the organising team said the event had been supported by generous sponsorships from local businesses over the years but inflation along with other economic factors are now putting their logos to our posters, as well as the stages." said Mike. Anyone wishing to preserve this important community event for the next 50 years by contributing sponsorship can contact: organisers@east **finchleyfestival.org**. Find out more at: eastfinchleyfestival. org/sponsorship.



East Finchley's new town square?

Plans can now be revealed for transforming the wide area of pavement outside Budgens and Amy's in the High Road into an attractive new town square for East Finchley. Turn to page 5 for more pictures and the full story.

Anthony Littler murder: two rebailed

Two men arrested in connection with the murder of civil servant Anthony Littler in East Finchley in 1984 have been rebailed. The men, aged 58 and 54, were first arrested in December and initially bailed until January, which was then extended to later this month.

Detectives continue to appeal for evidence and information about the fatal late-night attack on Mr Littler near East Finchley station on 1 May 1984. The 45-year-old Customs and Excise executive was walking back to his home in Leslie Road, N2, when he was set upon on the path, now known as Deanery Close, between the station and East End Road.

His cousin Tricia McClure told *The Archer* in January that her family had been shocked by the brutality of his murder and were still hoping for answers four decades on.

DCI Neil John, of the Met Police, said they were investigating several theories for the

motive behind the attack. He told us: "Possibly it was a robbery gone wrong. But then we know that none of Mr Littler's

from him."

Anyone with information should contact police on 020 8358 0100 or Crimestoppers belongings were actually taken anonymously on 0800 555 111.



