



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

How to report a crime

- Call **999** in an emergency when there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress
 - Call **101** for non-emergencies, if your property has been stolen or damaged, you wish to report drug dealing or a minor traffic accident, and for general police enquiries
 - Report crime to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by email to eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk gardensuburb.snt@met.police.uk or fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk
- Find full contact details for the local SNTs at loven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing
- Stay anonymous and report information to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

September 2014

Around 3,500 local residents were left having to find a new GP after plans were announced to close the surgery at 91 High Road, N2. Patients received letters during August saying the surgery would close at the end of the year. The shortage of NHS GP services in the area was highlighted then and continues to be a subject of local concern today.

15 years ago:

September 2009

Several local residents and their families were trapped in Cherry Tree Wood for two hours in the dark after an over-zealous Barnet Council mobile unit locked them in at dusk. No warning was given or checks made before the gates were locked and it took several calls to police to get the families freed. Barnet were profuse with their apologies when approached for comment and assured us that this would not happen again.

23 years ago:

September 2001

The Archer celebrated its 100th edition, after eight years delivering local news to East Finchley homes and businesses. Our lead story was the start of the long saga concerning the fate of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood, now no more after many years of schemes and abortive attempts by Barnet Council to lease the building for development.



- Open air. Cherry Tree Wood has organised activities and plenty of space to play. Photo Mike Coles

The hardest-working park in London?

By Louis Victor

Cherry Tree Wood is a place I used to play as a child. This little (13-acre) park has a delightful mix of grassland, woodland, plantations, sports and play facilities within its compact space and there is so much going on there.

A (very) brief survey of local residents revealed that the park is used for walking, playing, picnicking, dog walking, making art, staring into space, sitting and existing, running, tennis, appreciating nature, basketball, football, rugby, kite-flying, eating and drinking, children's and family parties, yoga and pilates (thanks to Mark Whooley for much of this list) ... but there is so much more than that.

Regular activities

Cherry Tree Wood has recently gained Green Flag Award status, the only public park run by Barnet Council to hold one, partly because of having an active Friends Group. The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood hold regular litter picks on the second Sunday of each month (except December and January) meeting in the park at 4-5pm during the spring and summer and 2-3pm when the clocks go back.

They undertake conservation work ranging from planting and maintaining hedgerows, planting Forest Gardens, and maintaining the park orchard. On top of this regular gardening events are held to look after different flower and wildflower beds. The Friends are always looking for more people to help arrange activities and run events. Contact: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Wellbeing walk

The East Finchley Wellbeing Walk meets every Wednesday at 10am for a gentle-paced, one-hour, sociable stroll in Cherry Tree and Highgate Woods. The walk is free and is open to everyone. For more information look for '@efwellbeingwalk' on Instagram, email efwellbeingwalk@gmail.com or call Louis on 07779 392911.

Cherry Tree Café events

The wonderful Cherry Tree Café is a great place to meet, eat, drink and socialise. It is often

the centre of special events like the recent celebration of the life of George Michael and parties to mark St Patrick's Day, back-to-school, Halloween and Christmas. You can find out what they are doing next by searching '@cherrytreewood-scape' on Instagram (or by going to the café and asking).

Fitness bootcamp

Georgina Mackie runs classes in Cherry Tree on Thursdays at 9.30am and Saturdays at 8am and 9am. They're fun relaxed fitness sessions for local women of all abilities. Her number is +447736443170. Her Instagram is @georgina_fitmylife

Music and fun

Ilana Banana runs music classes next to the Cherry Tree Café in the summer months, with live music and sing-alongs for under-fives and their families. These sessions will continue every Thursday and Friday in September and October if the weather stays fair. For more information her website is www.lanaland.co.uk

Tennis classes

FGcherrytreewoodrun children's tennis camps during holidays. For more information contact fgcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Annual events

The annual East Finchley Festival is a true highlight of the local year. Find out more at www.eastfinchleyfestival.org and save the date. Next year's festival is scheduled for Sunday 22 June 2025.

Cherry Tree is also the annual start point for the North London Hospice's Big Fun Walk in May/June and Race the Neighbours in June/July. More information is available at northlondonhospice.org/events

Are there other regular activities that take place in Cherry Tree Wood? Let us know by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk

Leak creates new lake in wood... but who's to blame?

By Roger Chapman

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood noticed in early May a new lake developing next to the Tube line beyond the playground. Water was up to 30cm deep in places and flowing across the path into a drain.

The flowing water indicated a serious leak, although some speculated it was the nearby Mutton Brook re-emerging in the very wet weather.

Thames Water were contacted but replied that it was nothing to do with them. Barnet Council investigated but couldn't find the source and sought specialist contractor help which would have cost £5,000.

to do with them. A mix-up over job numbers led to the 'small assets team' being sent to investigate. They went to the café and thought the leak was coming from the water fountain. Nothing to do with them again!

Eventually, and after much more cajoling, the 'large assets team' came out in late July and they agreed to repair it.

Work should have been



Running water: The leak across the path. Photo Mike Coles

A suggestion was made that TfL, who installed a new perimeter fence earlier in the year, could have caused the leak. TfL investigated but said no, nothing to do with them either. The weeks ticked by and the area of standing water increased. Stalemate.

Track and hack

A couple of members of the Friends, James Davidson and John Attree, donned wellingtons and, armed with shears, came to the rescue. They tracked and hacked their way back to a defective valve clearly leaking in the Thames Water 42-inch main pipe which runs under the Tube line and beneath Cherry Tree Wood to Fordington Road reservoir. A video was taken and sent to Thames Water.

This time they agreed the water may have something

completed by the time this edition of *The Archer* reaches you. We hope it is. Our estimate is that 15 litres of fresh drinking water are being lost every minute. That means since May over 2 million litres of water, which we all pay for, has literally been going down the drain.

The Archer online

Did you know you can catch up with past issues of *The Archer* online? Every edition since the start of 2000 is available on our website www.the-archer.co.uk.

The site also gives information on advertising in our pages and how you can contribute to the paper.



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