



The Archer

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Country in the city: The College Farm fields were open to the public until 2001

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Reengage host monthly Sunday tea parties in and around Finchley for people aged 75 and over who are lonely, isolated or in need of companionship. Volunteer drivers are needed to collect older guests from their homes and take them to the tea party where between 10 and 15 older guests and volunteers share tea, cake, and companionship, and enjoy a change of scenery for an afternoon. At the end of the tea party the volunteer drivers take the older guests safely back home. If you would like to get involved as a driver or a coordinator please contact ruth.carter@reengage.org.uk. Find out more at www.reengage.org.uk

Our local **Community Gardening Project** needs new volunteers. There is a small sloped garden near the entrance to East Finchley Station, known as Station Bank. It has been tended under supervision by volunteer gardeners since 2012. It currently grows a mixture of flowers and fruit but could grow vegetables too. This would be an ideal project for flat dwellers who enjoy gardening. Contact Kate at brown.kate@btinternet.com

Become a **Proms volunteer!** Could you give a few hours a month to help make this year's Proms at St Jude's Festival an even bigger success? The skills or experience needed include admin; IT; organisation and logistics; fundraising; and education. It's a great opportunity to get involved in a local community project, gain experience and meet new people. Find out more by going to www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering.

Food Bank Aid provides essential goods to 31 food banks who in turn support over 20,000 people per week. The team is looking for drivers and help to sort and pack donations for food banks. Their hub at the Great North Leisure Park in Finchley is a fun place to work, with friendly people, music, cake, tea and coffee. Flexible shifts are available. Email volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk

The Archer is happy to help all the various local organisations that need volunteers. Don't miss out on this free initiative that gets results! Please submit your listing of maximum 80 words to news@the-archer.co.uk

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please email news@the-archer.co.uk




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Watchdog places open farm charity under special control

By David Melsome

The Charity Commission, the regulator of charities in England and Wales, has issued a regulatory alert for College Farm Trust, which looks after the farmland open space in Regents Park Road, Finchley.

The charity, which registered in 1999 to run the farm for public benefit, was placed under statutory inquiry in August last year to investigate a range of concerns about trustee decision making.

The Commission has now appointed Interim Managers to the charity, whose role is to undertake certain duties in line with the charity's governing document.

The Interim Managers were appointed in December and will

be in control of the charity to undertake the duties specified in the appointment order, including securing the charity's property and assets and recruiting members.

Popular attraction

College Farm used to be home to cattle on its fields and operated as a popular local attraction for families and school visits from 1980 until 2001, when it was shut down because of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak.

Since then, the farm has been open only to customers of the site's associated businesses at the stables, saddlery and tack shop, pet shop and dog grooming parlour.

A campaign group called College Farm Action Group has been calling on the trust to reopen the farmland and resume its former activities.

The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales.

Run and help out in the wood

A running and volunteering group is aiming to help out more in Cherry Tree Wood this year. The GoodGym team meet regularly for a short run before taking part in an activity that needs manpower and womanpower.

Late last year, the group met at the Old White Lion pub in the High Road and crossed the road into the wood to spend an hour or two removing turf and creating space for raspberries and other fruit bushes to be planted.

Organiser Paul Salman said: "As always, GoodGym is about the unexpected joys of helping out. If you're reading this, maybe it's time to ditch the screen and dive into something real. Discover the satisfaction

of helping your neighborhood while keeping fit and making friends."

The group usually meets on Tuesday evenings throughout the year. Find out more at www.goodgym.org

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

1 Richmond Road, N2
Roof extension involving rear dormer window and two front-facing roof lights
59 Chandos Road, N2
Single-storey rear extension following demolition of the existing outrigger
35 Summerlee Avenue, N2
Erection of a rear outbuilding
143 Abbots Gardens, N2
Roof extension involving hip to gable, rear dormer window with Juliet balcony and three front-facing roof lights
7 Oakview Gardens, N2
Conversion of garage into habitable room, insertion of window to replace garage door

44 Baronsmere Road, N2
Single-storey rear and side extension to existing rear projection. Replacement of the first and second-floor rear windows with new enlarged double glazed windows
26 Abbots Gardens, N2
Roof extension involving hip to gable with rear dormer window, three side-facing and three front-facing roof lights, new side gable window. Part single, part two-storey side / rear extension. New front porch with new steps to front door and bin store. Alterations to the front driveway. Changes to fenestration. Erection of rear outbuilding.

Haringey

6 Southern Road, N2
Enlargement / formation of a patio door opening, associated alterations.
16 Shakespeare Gardens, N2
Side porch extension, structural alterations at ground floor to an existing two-storey dwelling.
15 Springcroft Avenue, N2
Internal renovation of kitchen and dining room, staircase, front living room, first-floor rear bedroom, Underfloor heating to ground floor of the property. Moving existing side windows to side passageway.
Whittington Court, Aylmer Road, N2
Works to upgrade communal doors.