



# Bioblitz finds woodland life... and a rare specimen

By Kate Brown

On Saturday 3 May, the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood ran a two-hour 'bioblitz' in the wood, essentially an attempt to log as many plants, bugs and mammals as possible in the allotted time span. It was aimed at adults and children and involved both traditional and modern methods.

Those with smartphones were encouraged to download two free applications which help with identifying things in nature. One is called Seek and is aimed at children, but beginners of all ages find it useful. The other is called iNaturalist and is equally easy to use and within this application, CTW has been set up as a 'project'.

This means that anyone using the app within the wood boundary can contribute to the data bank of species in the wood. It will become our very own local citizen science project and a great way of monitoring the biodiversity of the wood and evaluating the effectiveness

of the woodland management plan.

For those who prefer to be phone-free in the wood, the friends had a table-full of identification sheets, books and handouts. And for the children, the greatest excitement were two deep white trays.

One contained a 2L sample of pond water from the bog garden behind the tennis courts. This was alive with tadpoles which were duly returned to their home post bioblitz. The other tray contained a soil sample and was equally alive but the identification needed good eyesight. Young eyes had no difficulty spotting woodlice,

millipedes and spiders.

## Rare specimen

Local resident Ruth Brown, who downloaded iNaturalist for the first time on the day, discovered that the tree behind the toilets which deposits its furry white seedheads on the roof of the block is a Black Poplar. It is listed on the Barnet tree plan as a poplar but not as the much rarer Black Poplar.

Even more exciting, it appears to be a FEMALE Black Poplar. If the identification is correct, then it is one of only 600 in the whole of the UK. The Friends have now uploaded multiple pictures of the specimen: leaves, seedhead close ups



In trays: Young Cherry Tree Wood visitors spot miniature life forms at the Bioblitz

etc and we await formal confirmation. Watch this space.

## Garden openings

Congratulations to Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde who have received an award for 30 years of opening their Muswell Hill garden for the National Garden Scheme.



Their back garden has featured many times on TV and in magazines, after actress

Maureen Lipman chose it as her favourite for a celebrity fundraiser in 1995. Susan said: "She visited us recently and was astonished at how mature it has become since she did a bit of pottering."

Susan and Earl will be opening their garden at 5 St Regis Close, N10 2DE, again on Sunday 29 June and on Sunday 3 August from 2pm to 6.30pm. Admission £5, children free. Other charity openings coming up are at 25 Springfield Avenue, N10, on Sunday 8 June; Ally Pally Allotments, N22, on Sunday 22 June; Railway Cottages, N22, on Sunday 6 July and 24 Twyford Avenue, N2, on Sunday 20 July. For full details, visit [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

## Future events in the Wood

### Forest Garden

A drop-in session to explore the next phase of development for the Forest Garden in Cherry Tree Wood takes place on Wednesday 2 July. The garden will contribute to the biodiversity of the wood and also provide an educational area to learn about food-growing and pollination.

All the trees in this area produce something edible, and are slowly being underplanted with

fruit bushes and other edible plants. Meet the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood by the new trees as you exit towards the Fordington Road gate at 7pm.

### Butterfly Count

The national Big Butterfly Count runs from 18 July to 10 August. On Sunday 27 July, there will be a butterfly event for all ages in Cherry Tree Wood, meeting at the nature circle near the children's playground at 2pm. This event will introduce the five most common butterflies in a child-friendly way along with storytelling.

## Round square

A reminder that the 'Round the Square' event takes place on Saturday 7 June between 2-5pm on the pavement outside Budgens and Caffé Nero in the High Road, N2. You can learn about the East Finchley Town Team's plans for reconfiguring that particular area and there will be entertainment with performances by local groups, alongside activities organised by the Finchley Pollination Project. The afternoon forms part of the London Festival of Architecture.

## Free concert

The next Sunday evening concert at East Finchley Methodist Church is a piano recital by Guillem León, who will be playing music by Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin and Mompou. It takes place at 7.30pm on Sunday 8 June at the church on the High Road, N2, opposite Creighton Avenue.

Admission is free with a collection in aid of Snowdon Trust, supporting disabled students in education and employment. The venue is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

## From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:  
June 2015

The Grange Big Local project, which had secured £1million of Big Lottery funding, made its first donation of many to local causes. It awarded £1,000 to Age UK Barnet, as sponsorship for Nic van der Breggen, who ran the 2015 London Marathon in aid of the charity. Age UK was one of several local voluntary organisations that Grange Big Local had been working with over the previous year.

15 years ago:  
June 2010

June 2010 heralded the 200th edition of The Archer, with profuse thanks to the many volunteers and advertisers who helped us reach that milestone and who continue to support the paper today. Amongst the many stories in this landmark issue was the extraordinary walking-on-fire event at the Five Bells pub. After an intensive training session, 35 intrepid volunteers braved temperatures of up to 500°C to raise money for the North London Hospice. Fortunately, no injuries were reported!

25 years ago:  
June 2000

The RSPCA raised concerns about a rise in animal cruelty locally, particularly by young people. Pigeons, squirrels and a woodpecker had been found shot dead in Cherry Tree Wood and, following one incident, the park-keeper apprehended a teenager seen running from the park with a friend carrying a brown gun case. Local police highlighted the danger of air rifles and that it is illegal to kill birds and protected animals.

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