



A wonderful way to remember Rudi

By Councillor Alison Moore



Respected and loved: Sarah Sackman MP addresses the Cherry Tree Wood gathering for the bench dedication to former MP Rudi Vis, right. Photo Mike Coles

In brilliant sunshine on Sunday 6 September, a large crowd gathered by the playground in Cherry Tree Wood to dedicate a new memorial park bench in honour of former East Finchley councillor and MP for Finchley and Golders Green, Rudi Vis.

The bench was installed at the special request of his widow Jacqui Suffling-Vis, who called me earlier in the summer. It was her heartfelt wish that Rudi should be remembered in the place he loved and that held such happy memories for her and their boys when they were children, in the playground or playing football in the park with their dad. With the help of Roger Chapman, Chair of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood,

a prompt response from council officers and a swift collection of contributions from friends and former colleagues of Rudi's, the bench was ordered and installed by the end of August.

Sadly Jacqui, who approved the wording on the plaque and got to see pictures of the new bench safely in place, died just a few days before the dedication after a long illness. However, she was with us in spirit. The dedication of the memorial

bench was attended by Jacqui's sisters Jane and Laura Suffling, family members and many of Jacqui and Rudi's old friends, including councillors past and present. MP Sarah Sackman spoke warmly in tribute to her predecessor, who served as Finchley and Golders Green MP from 1997 until 2010. Rudi stood down that year knowing he was suffering from cancer

and died soon after at the age of 69.

After Jane cut the ribbon we all raised a toast to Rudi who, as the plaque says, 'loved his family, East Finchley and Cherry Tree Wood'. Thank you to Jacqui, and to everyone who helped make it happen and came together to remember Rudi. As he would have said:

'Wonderful!'



In memory: The inscription on Rudi's bench

Volunteers on the side of patients

By Kolsum Jahan

Among the team at CB Plus Barnet Plus Primary Care Group is a volunteer who has lived in East Finchley for more than 50 years and another who worked in East Finchley as a district nurse for many years.

The group explores primary care issues and has produced patient information sheets, one of which shows patients where to go for medical advice and treatment in Barnet when their regular GP surgery is closed.

Another example of the group's work is the Wider Practice Team, a sheet showing patients the practitioners that might work in their surgery and how to get access to the Social Prescribing Teams who look after patients' wellbeing

A third and current project is a sheet to help patients prepare for a GP or other type of

consultation by completing the form with all their relevant medical symptoms in advance of the appointment. This sheet can also be used for noting down the outcome of the consultation and the way forward for their treatment.

If you would like to support the work done by the Barnet Primary Care Group, please contact the group on their dedicated email address primarycaregroup@cbplus.org.uk.

To access the patient information sheets visit <https://cbplus.org.uk/cb-plus-primary-care-group/>



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