



Sowing the seeds in Cherry Tree Wood Photo by Martin Earl

A piece of Traditional Countryside

On Thursday, 12 September, Barnet Council brought a coach full of delegates from various local authorities around London and other parts of the UK to Cherry Tree Wood to explain how the 5 year Greenspaces Action Plan is being implemented. Two members of the Committee of Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were invited to join the group to explain how the Friends work in a close and active partnership with the Countryside Management Service and Barnet to implement the Plan.

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood were praised for their hard work and enthusiasm and were cited as a 'flagship' for other Friends' groups in the Borough.

Flowers of the fields

Wildflower meadows are an increasingly rare sight in Britain. This long grassy strip next to the underground line in Cherry Tree Wood was sown with wildflower seeds on Sunday 15 September by volunteers from The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, Countryside Management Service and Barnet Council. The seeds included Black Knapweed, Red Campion, Ox Eye Daisy and Meadow Buttercup, which will flourish in damp meadowland. The meadow will be managed in a way that mimics the traditional way of cutting meadows for hay. It will be left to grow until late Summer when it will be cut and the hay removed, re-establishing a piece of traditional countryside in East Finchley.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood will be held on Tuesday 22 October at 8pm in the Fellowship Room of East

Finchley Methodist Church, High Road, N2 (opposite the Library). You don't need to be a member to attend. It's a good opportunity to meet the Friends, representatives from Countryside Management Service and Barnet Council to talk about the future of the wood, a valuable and much loved local amenity.

It's a Gamble

By Martin Earl

Secondary school transfer is not always an easy time. Our daughter started her new school this September - but the drama began a year ago.

Her primary school was always very supportive and held a meeting to explain what we had to do. Visit as many schools as we could; make our minds up as to how we were going to gamble, send in our application forms and then wait - for a long time.

Yes, I did say gamble. For Barnet community schools you have to make a choice. You can make as many choices as you like, but they are all treated as being equal. So if you get offered a place in the first round for one of your preferences you will not get an offer in the second round for any of the other schools you have put down. In Haringey you do not have to put your child's education on the line - you can make first and second choices. As a large part of East Finchley comes within the Haringey catchment area of Fortismere we have a double choice.

But there is a catch. In East Finchley there are no girls-only schools near enough and as the main way of getting a place is by living near the school you want this can cause a serious problem. Many girls, including our daughter, got no offers in the first round and some of her classmates were still not placed by the end of the summer term.

Hot tips

So what can you do? Here are some tips. Visit as many schools as you can, even the 'less popular' ones. Consider

Foundation schools, like Henrietta Barnet and Hendon that have separate entry systems and so widen your options. When making choices for Barnet community schools be careful not to put down a school you really would not want your child to go to. Look at the catchment area rings from the previous year to see what your chances of getting in are. Take advantage of being able to apply for Haringey schools without it affecting your Barnet choices.

Be prepared for an anxious time, but you are not alone and in most cases it will all work out. Good Luck.

Can you help?

Community Focus, Barnet's registered charity group for people with disabilities, needs drivers and helpers to transport people to a variety of activities.

The group's members are of mixed ages and abilities and they can participate in a diverse range of artistic skills. These include dance, drama, painting, creative writing and ICT. Readers may have seen their performances at East Finchley Community Festival or East Finchley Arts Festival.

If you are able to assist, please phone Community Focus on 020 8346 9789.

The Team at Everything Electrical

By John Dearing

Loui Doukaki has been in the electrical business for 13 years, initially serving a three-year apprenticeship, and is now the proprietor of Everything Electrical. The shop was located in Lincoln Road for six years, before the move to their current, larger premises at 38 High Road. They do all kinds and sizes of electrical contract work from house rewiring to setting up electric gates, and believe they offer better service and more competitive prices than the big nationals such as John Lewis, or Argos. Everything Electrical is a specialist supplier of all types of light bulbs, particularly from America. They service appliances such as vacuum cleaners, recently rewiring and servicing a 50-year-old example for the barber shop in Lincoln road, and have an extensive range of dust bags for vacuum cleaners.



Photo by John Dearing

Loui is proud of the team he has assembled (pictured above, left to right, Loui himself, Michael, Luke and Amar). They are all keen motorcyclists and, when not working hard on customer contracts, they can be found riding their Suzukis

to places such as Box Hill in Surrey, and Crews Hill in Hertfordshire. Team meetings are held on Friday evenings at a local hostelry, and a team outing to Rye Park go-kart track at Hoddesden is planned in the near future.

HELP is HERE 4U

Finchley Christian Fellowship

The Place to be - Every Sunday 11:00am

Your local Multi-National Community Church

A great welcome and time awaits you

The Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road East Finchley
Enquiries - 020 8805 2867

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

for more information contact 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome