



How many green bottles?

By Sheila Armstrong

Plastic recycling is less well developed than recycling for other materials in this country but there are some plastics that East Finchley residents can recycle at Summers Lane Recycling Centre, although not in household boxes.

Any plastic packaging that is categorised as a 1, 2, or 3 type of plastic is fine. And you can find out if your particular packaging is recyclable by looking on the bottom, where you will find a triangle, composed of three arrows with the vital number inside. It seems to be mainly bottles that are made from recyclable plastic and sometimes the screw tops too. But it's worth checking all plastics.

The Friends of the Earth website tells us that nine out of 10 people would recycle more if it was made easier to do. At the moment, however, few north London boroughs seem to offer plastic recycling

at the kerbside and of course driving to Summers Lane raises environmental issues, too

Why worry?

Why is it important to recycle plastic? Because it's made from oil which gives off toxic fumes if it's burnt and takes years to biodegrade in landfill sites which of course are filling up fast.

Useful ideas about recycling, saving money and generally going green can be found in Friends of the Earth's new book *Save Cash, Save the Planet* by Andrea Smith and Nicola Baird. Contact details are: Friends of the Earth 020 7490 1555 or www.foe.co.uk

Forum welcomes Stanley Field plans

By Daphne Chamberlain

Barnet has appointed a liaison officer to meet the East Finchley groups who propose developing Stanley Road Field as a community and sports centre.

At last month's Finchley Forum, Deputy Chief Executive Brian Reynolds said that he hoped the first contact would be made the following week.

Philip King, representing the Park Road Residents' Association, had outlined the development proposals for the Forum, and asked for Council support, starting with a liaison officer. He was supported by Sylvia Duthie, chair of Holy Trinity School governors; Roger Chapman, from the East Finchley Development Trust; and local architect Chris Hampson (who is also a member of Holy Trinity's Parent Teacher Association).

An opportunity not to be missed

Mrs Duthie emphasised that the idea was for many different community groups to use the centre. She said, "This is a rare opportunity to show what mem-

bers of the community can do. It's a real opportunity not to be missed. It would require fund-raising, but could make a tremendous difference to East Finchley".

Roger Chapman endorsed everything that had been said, adding that the proposal would fit in with Barnet's corporate plan for a healthy lifestyle.

Public support

The East Finchley contingent was originally refused permission to show the forum their architectural plans for the site, drawn up by Chris Hampson and Tristram Williams. Brian Reynolds said that as they had not been discussed with Barnet Council, who owned the land, it would not be appropriate.

However, he was overruled by public demand, and chair Leslie Sussman agreed that Mr Hampson could show the plans to all those interested after the meeting.



Landlord Alan Parkinson and his patrons prop up the bar. Photo by Erini Rodis

Dick Turpin rides again

By John Lawrence

An old East Finchley favourite is back in the saddle after years of decline. The Dick Turpin pub on Long Lane, named after the notorious 18th century highwayman, has been refurbished and is open for business.

Locals have watched with sadness over the past few years as the pub went through a succession of short-term managers and lost most of its regular trade as it became more and more run-down. For the last five months, it has been shut altogether.

But now Julie and Alan Parkinson have taken over and the place has been changed beyond all recognition with a £250,000 makeover. The money for the refurbishment was put up by management company GRS which rents the business from Punch Taverns.

Transformation

Gone are the old bar and furniture and in have come a lounge bar and a sports bar, two satellite TV screens, two fruit machines, comfy leather sofas and wooden tables, along with full facilities for disabled customers. Twenty craftsmen worked on the building inside and out to achieve this transformation in just five weeks back in March.

Julie and Alan, who have been in the pub trade since 1982 but have also spent time running a Post Office and working for a tour operator in Greece, say they

want the Dick Turpin to be a thriving community pub.

Julie said: "We want people to come in and feel welcome. It's a safe and relaxed atmosphere. We're already getting women coming in here to enjoy a quiet drink on the way home from work. There's one old gentleman who hadn't been in for years but he's been in every night since we opened."

Alan added: "We're setting our standards high. When we were offered the position of running the pub, we saw the potential it had and decided to go for it."

The upstairs of the building is now a family home for Julie, Alan and their two daughters aged 15 and nine. Children are not allowed in the bar but they are welcome in the outside terrace area where there are plenty of tables and patio heaters for those cooler nights.

Bar food is on the menu daily along with a full roast on Sunday lunchtimes; a fuller menu may be introduced if the food takes off

with the customers. A grand opening is planned once all the finishing touches have been made.

Now that the recently-closed Red Lion pub on nearby Red Lion Hill looks likely to be converted into yet more flats, it will be good to see the Dick Turpin welcoming customers again.

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