



Many hands make light work

Many readers will have noticed some disruption on their pavements in recent weeks as Barnet Council carries out a multi-million pound programme to install new street lamps.

New lighting columns are being placed around N2 and the old ones removed. In many instances, the columns themselves are being moved back from the pavement edge and positioned closer to homes and front gardens.

The new versions are designed to be longer-lasting, safer and more energy-efficient. They are also easier to repair as the old model is coming to the end of its working life.

A letter sent to residents from the council and contractors David Webster Limited said the benefits of the new lamps



would be a safer environment and less street clutter.

Barnet's street light replacement project is costing £60 million and is being funded by a national government grant through the Private Finance Initiative.

Residents' group gets results

By Caroline Broome

The fourth meeting of EFVRA, the East Finchley Village Residents Association, was held at The Five Bells pub on 30 March, and was well attended by our regulars, as well as several new members. We now have more than 80 members, and that figure is rising, in response to our articles in THE ARCHER as well as our extensive leaflet drops within a large radius of N2.

EFVRA continues to promote a positive focus on current local issues and events, as well as fighting campaigns when we feel that circumstances dictate such actions. One such campaign is the strong local opposition to the reapplication for mobile phone masts to be installed within the bell tower of Holy Trinity Church.

Our EFVRA letter to Barnet Council, concerned with traffic conditions in Church Lane, has received a response from the Director of Environment & Transport's office giving details of a forthcoming scheme to improve road safety, due to commence soon.

After local concerns regarding the proposal for a supermarket to be opened on the corner of Leslie Road and 222 High Road N2, the Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the appeal application for Change of Use at Stag Court.

Future plans

Other local issues are being raised all the time. Keeping our Green Spaces in perpetuity; the provision of youth activity in the N2 area, as well as local secondary school place allocations, are all on the agenda for future meetings. EFVRA is also keen to start making links with other local initiatives and charities. Within EFVRA all roles are shared out, such as volunteering for leaflet distribution, petitions, and organising social events, with members taking responsibility for coordinating their pet projects.

EFVRA will have a stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 21 June, so come along and meet us; take the opportunity to get involved, or simply be kept updated about local issues. For further information contact Caroline Broome or Patti Owens on EFVRA@btinternet.com

Fun walk brings in funds for hospice

The hundreds of walkers who took part in the Big Fun Walk are helping to bring in a massive total for the North London Hospice. More than £114,000 has already been raised from the event in early March, putting sponsorship 10% ahead of this time last year, and much more is expected once all pledges have been collected.

Big Fun Walk organiser Vivienne Bentley urged all walkers to send in their sponsorship forms and cash as soon as possible. She said: "We would like to thank everyone who took part and everyone who gave money. It is wonderful that the community is still willing to support us even in these hard times."

Participants in the Big Fun Walk set out each year from East Finchley Station to cover a seven and a half mile route through north London's parks to Westminster.

All the cash raised from the event is used to fund the work of the North London Hospice in Whetstone, which provides care and support for patients and families in Barnet, Haringey and Enfield.

THE ARCHER reported last month that the hospice had issued a plea for extra support during the recession after noticing the volume of donations to its fundraising shops was dropping.



Jack, pictured in 2008. Photo by Yvonne Brown

Brave Jack loses his battle with cancer

By Betti Blatman

After a courageous four-year battle with neuroblastoma, seven-year-old Jack Brown sadly passed away on 3 May in hospital in America with his parents Yvonne and Richard, brother Connor and sister Rhian at his bedside.

"Richard and I still continue to wonder at why so many people have been so captured by Jack," said Yvonne. "We know why we loved and continue to love Jack deeply, but it is difficult to understand exactly how he caught the hearts of strangers and those who see him in a professional capacity irregularly in such a profound way. But he has, and we are deeply grateful for all the love shown that has made Jack's short life such a special and happy one."

In a message on their website, Yvonne and Richard wrote: "From a father to a son, thank you for teaching me what is

important. We carry your hope forwards. From a mother to a brave son, thank you for teaching me the true meaning of love. You will never leave me, nor I you."

After the family's return home to Barnet, a memorial service took place for Jack in Devon.

If you choose, in lieu of flowers, please contribute to the JACK research fund to help provide hope for other relapsed children who are battling this disease. Cheques should be made out to "2Simple Trust /Joining Against Cancer in Kids" and sent to: The 2Simple Trust, 3-4 Sentinel Square, Brent Street, Hendon, London NW4 2EL Tel: 020 8203 0100.

Donors, please indicate that your gift is in memory of Jack. You can also donate directly on-line via this link: www.justgiving.com/policerun4jack2009

Bench back where it belongs

By Diana Cormack

After the workmen sprucing up Cherry Tree Wood for proposed Green Flag status had left, locals began to spot the odd discrepancy. For instance, on last month's letters page Joyce Arram pointed out that the new seats she described as a "major improvement" failed to carry some of the dedications which were on the old benches they had replaced.

But an even bigger bone of contention was the disappearance of a bench that had been bought by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Spearheaded by Anne Lalaguna, who worked closely with Barnet Council to ensure it met the borough's criteria, the Friends had purchased the bench at a cost of £600 to mark the new millennium.

Positioned beside the footpath at the Northern Line end of the field, it gave those who rested on it a wonderful view of the park. Nobody had thought to



Photo by Diana Cormack

consult or liaise with the Friends about its removal.

THE ARCHER was alerted to the situation by Fenella Reed, of Eastern Road, a firm fan of the sturdy seat. She found out that Barnet had put the bench into storage and wanted to know what they proposed to do with it, given that the borough prides

itself on reuse and recycling. Return seemed to her to be the better option. Maybe Fenella's previous contact with Barnet councillors and the parks department had already started things moving, but within two days of THE ARCHER getting involved, the millennium bench was back in its place.

**All Saints' Church,
Durham Road, East Finchley
Church of England**

**Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.**

**The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.**

**All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an
enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.**

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>