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NOVEMBER 2014





New lease of life for Friends Catherine takes the of Cherry Wood By Debbie Linton



Winter warmer in the wood

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard With the autumn here and the days becoming shorter, parks can seem less inviting or 'alive' than in the summer. The staff at the **Cherry Tree Wood kiosk** café have plans to face this head-on by keeping it open most days during the winter months as a way of breathing life into the park.

If the management were to get the go-ahead they would serve more hot food and drinks than in the summer, possibly with pub-style outdoor heaters around the patio area. They intend to make the park a more social, inviting and safe place by providing somewhere fully staffed where you can meet up over a coffee (hopefully also meaning the park toilets stay open longer too!) during what would otherwise be a slump time for business.

The staff have shown throughout the summer months that they are full of good ideas (such as painting the kiosk green to suit the park setting and adding flowers and ice cream pictures to it) and the food there has always been good. Like all staff I have known there, they are friendly and remember locals such as me and don't mind chatting to customers, though they always give priority to serving.

I would be delighted if autumn and winter openings were to become a regular feature. Who knows, they might even set a trend for other parks...

Cherry Tree Wood in late autumn. Photo Mike Coles

The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood was founded a number of years ago by a group of dedicated East Finchley residents who decided to play an active role in managing and protecting the woodland.

Over the last couple of years, the charity has been dormant. However, we are now looking to reinvigorate it by finding a new committee, some fresh input and some different faces.

Our charity has worked alongside Barnet Council to help preserve the woodland and its wildlife, working sympathetically to evolve facilities to meet the needs of its changing users.

We need you to get involved Have you got skills, ideas or experience that could help preserve the woodland and enhance its facilities? If you use and enjoy Cherry Tree Wood, please don't take it for granted. Come to our AGM on 23 November and help all of us in the community to look after it. We're meeting in the Old White Lion pub next to the tube station and proceedings start at 12pm.

We have funds available to spend and a membership list of over 150 people. We don't require lots of time, just energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in. For more information about our organisation please see our website at www. cherrytreewood.co.uk.

Everyone is welcome on 23 November, so please come along and get involved.

concert spotlight

By Marian Bunzl

For our November concert, the North London Chorus will be back home at St. James's church in Muswell Hill and it will be a very special occasion. Our accompanist Catherine Borner has been with us now for ten years.

We are very lucky to have Catherine; she is a superb pianist who, from an ordinary school hall upright piano, can evoke a whole orchestra whatever the composer, or style, from Monteverdi to Benjamin Britten to Stephen Sondheim, from Requiem Mass to Oratorio to American Musical, and who does it, seemingly, with the greatest of ease. And she always manages to include the vocal lines for us to follow and to

keep track of us when we don't!



Catherine Borner.

From background to foreground

But however brilliant, choral accompanists live mainly in the background: their art is on display at rehearsals, the public rarely gets to hear them, and on the odd occasion when they are needed at the concert, they tend to get taken for granted.

So for her tenth anniversary, we would like to bring Catherine into the foreground. As the highlight of the evening, under the baton of Murray Hipkin, with the Meridian Sinfonia, she will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No 23 in A. Of course

the choir will also sing: a short lively *Te Deum* by Haydn, and Beethoven's beautiful Mass

Please come to the concert on Saturday 22 November at 7.30pm at St. James's Church, Muswell Hill and enjoy the wonderful playing that we get to hear every week.

Tickets cost £20, £15, £10 (concs. £2 reduction). Ticketline: 0203 468 1213, or online at ticket@northlondonchorus. org, or from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, or at St James's Church bookshop.



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