



Friendly rivalry: Race the Neighbours last year

Race for your place

Places have been selling out fast for this year's Race the Neighbours 10k run starting out from Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 10 July.

When registrations opened on 18 April, nearly 100 people signed up in the first hour and as we went to press organisers told us that well over half the 250 places had been taken.

Organiser Avi Freeman said:

"Registrations so far are coming more heavily from N2 than from N10 although the vast majority is from one of those two areas. The local neighbourly feel seems to be strong!" He urged runners to avoid disap-

pointment by reserving a place as soon as possible.

The race follows a route from East Finchley to Alexandra Palace and back. You can sign up online at www.racetheneighbours.com

Help stock up the food bank

By Erini Rodis and Sara Sibley

Volunteers will be collecting items for the Finchley Food Bank at Budgens in the High Road on Saturday 4 June from 10am to 2pm.

They have a shopping list of non-perishable foodstuffs that they'd really appreciate people donating so that they can be passed on to people in need.

On the list are: tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, UHT milk, sugar, long-life fruit juice, soup, pasta sauces, tinned puddings, cereals, tea bags, instant coffee, rice, tinned fruit, jam, biscuits and chocolate bars.

Also very welcome would be basic bathroom and kitchen items like shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, shaving foam, razors, toilet rolls, washing up

liquid and washing powder.

How the food bank works

As we reported last November, the food bank has been set up by a number of local churches. It welcomes anyone, regardless of faith or belief, for tea and biscuits in the hall behind St Mary's Church, High Road, N2, on Saturday afternoons from 12.30pm to 2pm.

Users can self-refer, and their circumstances vary. They range from self-employed folk or zero-hour contract workers who simply have a gap in their work, to more vulnerable individuals whose assessment

for various types of disability allowance has meant a sudden cut in income.

The food bank will provide them with three days' worth of supplies, up to a maximum of five times.

Donations can be dropped off any time during the session at St Mary's.

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Are East Finchley streets getting more untidy?

By Nick Allan

Dropping or leaving litter in a public place is an offence. In fact, the Environmental Protection Act of 1990 states that anyone who drops anything that causes defacement in a public place is committing an offence and there is an unlimited fine for offenders.

Despite this, some East Finchley residents are increasingly concerned about the amount of litter in our streets and public areas. Many of the shops along the High Road also experience the result of this anti-social behaviour, particularly those located near bus stops.

Street scenes

One High Road shopkeeper told THE ARCHER that the entrance to his shop has to be cleared daily of discarded cigarette ends and fast food containers even though there are litter bins nearby. Sadly, many of these bins are filled to overflowing,

adding to the unkempt appearance.

A resident who regularly uses The Walks said: "The dog



Litter: The High Road / North Circular underpass

ties of alcohol and currently an empty pregnancy test kit."

A spokesperson for Barnet Council which is responsible for cleaning our streets said: "The bins are emptied regularly and the roads are swept on a 5-6 week rotation, dependent on staff availability."

No surprise

This perhaps highlights some of the problems, given how quickly litter and rubbish can accumulate. Councillor Arjun Mittra, who regularly highlights the problem on his Twitter feed with photographs of affected areas, said: "I sometimes feel we don't get the attention we deserve in East Finchley, particularly around the streets off the High Road. I often see bins overflowing that obviously haven't been emptied for some time. I don't think it's a surprise though, given the lack of resources and that funding for cleaning services has been drastically cut over the past few years."

Barnet Council, however, were keen to point out that they provide a hotline via their website at www.barnet.gov.uk where people can report litter problems which they will address. We will keep an eye on this story but suggest we all do our bit and take our litter home or put it in the bins provided...



Dumped: Items left on the pavement in the High Road

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For more information please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)
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