



Time for bed at the station

Members of the N2 Gardeners group are putting the flower and vegetable bank alongside the Tube station to bed for the winter and they are inviting anyone to come along and help.

The station bank, running along the outside wall between the entrance and the car park, was taken on by N2 gardeners, a local group of volunteers, back in 2010 and has been managed by them ever since. Now in its sixth year the bank has matured and looks quite good for its age.

However it has become a bit wild and unkempt round the edges over the summer and now needs a bit of work to tidy and clean it up for the winter, ready for new planting and flowering next year.

If you can spare some time to help out on the day then please turn up on Sunday 9 October between 10am and 12 noon.

To find out more about the



Down tools: How the station bank looked in 2010

work of the N2 Gardeners email n2gardeners@gmail.com and the group will keep you in touch with its work and the dates when volunteers will be down at the station bank next year.

The story behind our newest community garden

In July, Martin O'Donnell wrote about the new Octavia Hill community garden next to the Green Man Centre, Strawberry Vale. Here he tells the story of the remarkable woman after whom it's named.

Our garden in Strawberry Vale commemorates Octavia Hill, a social housing pioneer and contemporary of George Peabody. Octavia Hill was also a founding member, in 1895, of the National Trust, helped save Hampstead Heath and Parliament Hill Fields from developers, and coined the phrase "the Green Belt".

She set up the Institute of Women Housing Managers, the forerunner of the Chartered Institute of Housing, and her ideas on building close relationships with residents laid the foundations for the beginning of social work. Not a bad legacy to leave behind and one well worth celebrating.

Octavia's family were from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and moved to Finchley when she was a child. Their house was near the Strawberry Vale Brook (now culverted) which runs down to where the Strawberry Vale Estate now stands. Playing in the fields of Finchley gave her a love of the outdoors and as an adult she wanted everyone to be able to enjoy the benefits of open space, something hard to find in fast-growing Victorian London.



Inspiration: Octavia Hill in 1882. Photo Wikipedia

Honouring Octavia

We were aware of the Octavia Hill connection to the area and The Finchley Society was very keen to see that link commemorated in some way. We arranged a coach trip for Strawberry Vale residents to the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum in Wisbech and the idea of using the land next to the centre as a community garden in her honour started to take shape.

The next steps for the community garden project are to develop some local history boards in collaboration with the Finchley Society and the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum, and to arrange a return coach trip to Wisbech for local residents. If you are interested in coming along please email community.events@peabody.org.uk.

Boxer wins on points

By Nick Allan

Boxer Josh Burnham won his second professional fight on points at York Hall on Saturday 17 September beating his Bulgarian opponent, 23-year-old Konstantin Alexandrov, a last minute replacement for Sonny Whiting who ironically broke his hand before the bout. Readers who saw our edition last month may remember that Josh had to postpone this fight, originally scheduled for May, for the same reason.

Describing the fight as "frustrating" Josh said would

have liked to have finished it earlier but didn't want to rush in and get caught with a silly punch or potentially get a cut. Josh added: "It was the first time I'd done six rounds and I felt I could have gone another six after. But I live well and train hard so I was ready."

He now looks forward to his next fight, hopefully in November, still burning with the desire to advance in the sport and eventually win the Lonsdale Belt, awarded to British boxing champions since 1909.

Loving the spin I'm in

Two busy women with families and other jobs were so sorry when their local gym shut its doors and their beloved spin classes came to an end that they decided to keep them going themselves.

First setting up a pop-up studio at Stephens House and Gardens, East End Road, back in January, Sharon Jaffe and Hilary Bentwood have now found a more permanent home in the Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Their new CyClub studio has Technogym spin bikes, an array of classes and instructors and a flexible timetable for people like them with young children and

full-time jobs.

Sharon and Hilary said: "The studio has attracted an audience from young to old, from teenagers to grandparents. There are many couples and parents with older children who come and spin side-by-side."

For further information visit www.the-cyclub.com or find The CyClub on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



Pedal power: Business partners Sharon Jaffe and Hilary Bentwood

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