



Neighbours race for glory... and the sheer fun of it

Runners from N10 claimed victory for the first time over their friendly rivals from N2 when the annual Race the Neighbours 10k challenge came to Cherry Tree Wood on the first Sunday in July.

A record 450 amateur athletes ran the tough course past Highgate Woods to Alexandra Palace and back on a sunny morning as conditions became increasingly hot.

Once all the average times had been calculated, Muswell Hill were awarded the Cherry Tree Cup, held by East Finchley for the last two years. The fastest female was Amira Kohler (N10) with a time of 47:53 and the fastest male was Noriyuki Yamaguchi (N2), who returned

in 38:45.

Family and friends cheered the runners across the finishing line, none more so than Alan Wiseman who was running his first 10k at the age of 83.

Volunteer stewards were stationed along the route to keep everyone on course and Southern Ambulance Services were on hand in the park for first aid. Once again, congratulations to the organising team for staging one of the best events in the local calendar.



First home: Fastest runner Noriyuki Yamaguchi crosses the finishing line in less than 40 minutes



No sweat: Alan Wiseman, 83, finishing the race



Elite runners: Fastest racers Alex Landau (40:45), Ed Boden (38:54), Noriyuki Yamaguchi (38:45), Amira Kohler (47:53), Tanya Addison (48:14) and Michelle Banks (49:00).

P-p-pick up a Penguin... or any other paperback!

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local book-lover Lynn Winton has arranged with estate agents Prickett & Ellis and London Underground to set up a community bookstall at East Finchley tube station. By the time you read this, it is scheduled to be up and running.

A great way of bringing everyone together

By Ann Bronkhorst
Sunshine, food and drink, music, conversation and story-telling: the Great Get Together on Sunday 18 June organised by the Friends of Coldfall Wood was a lovely occasion.

All over the UK that weekend there were picnics, street parties and neighbourly gatherings in memory of Jo Cox, the young MP murdered last year. Her life-affirming words, "We have far more in common than that which divides us," inspired a huge response and the Great Get Together was one result.

In our case, the Friends leafleted local streets but had little idea of the numbers to expect: around 70 turned up through the afternoon, all bringing food to share and happy to be part of a communal picnic on Muswell Hill Playing Field.

Gentle background music was provided by Abdul Williams on his steel pan and Sita, from Settle Storytellers in Yorkshire, drew on a range of folk tales to hold the children (and some adults) spellbound.

There was nothing for sale and no agenda or campaign to promote: just a cheerful neighbourhood picnic on a sunny afternoon. Who knows, it could become a regular event.

Lynn emphasises that this project is for everyone. It's free for all the community to drop off and/or pick up the books. She told us: "Most people have books they don't need, and with changes to the libraries it's not so easy to pick up ones you haven't read. I discussed this with my book club, who are very supportive."

"The station is obviously a good site, especially now the ticket office has closed. Paul Baxter, the area manager for our part of the Northern line, is very enthusiastic, and has given us the prime position opposite the turnstiles."

An asset to our station

Lynn was also impressed by

Amanda Walker, the manager at Prickett & Ellis, who immediately agreed to sponsor the project. They have supplied the four-shelf oak bookcase, and offered their basement as storage space for surplus books. Anyone bringing more than a bagful can take them to the shop.

The plan is to allocate one shelf to children's books. For convenience reasons, all books should be paperbacks. Lynn is anxious that the stall should enhance the station. She says, "I don't want it to be scruffy. One of us from my book club will drop in every day to keep an eye on the stall, but I do hope that people will keep it tidy. It belongs to everyone."

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