



Fightback begins against health threat of dirty air

By David Melsome

A public meeting has been called to find ways of improving air quality in East Finchley. Many roads in the area have pollution levels that exceed World Health Organisation guidelines.

The East Finchley Community Trust will host the meeting in the school hall at Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2, on Thursday 17 October at 7pm. Everyone is urged to attend to ask questions and make suggestions.

Pollution outdoors and indoors

The organisers say breathing polluted air harms our health, even when we might not feel the effects day to day. Half of this pollution is caused by road traffic but other factors such as dust from construction works have an impact.

In East Finchley the roads that most exceed air quality targets are the High Road, North Circular and A1 and there are also high pollution levels along East End Road and Fortis Green. From October 2021, East Finchley will be in the new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ),

which should reduce some emissions on the High Road and A1.

Poor air quality is also a factor inside our homes and workplaces, thanks to chemicals in household products and other factors like poor ventilation.

Assessing risks and solutions

Kate Brown, Trustee of East Finchley Community Trust, said: "It is easy to feel that poor air quality is beyond our control but as a society we are causing the pollution and therefore collectively we can make a difference."

The meeting will be introduced by Leonie Cooper, GLA Member and environment lead for the Labour and Cooperative Party. A spokesperson from Barnet Council has also been invited and a pupil representative from the Martin School Eco council will speak from the platform.

Pat is one of Britain's 'most inspiring'

By Lizzie McAllister

It isn't hard to see why Pat Leacock has been named one of the most inspiring people in Britain today. The regular host of East Finchley's summer festival made it on to the *i* newspaper's 11th annual Happy List.

He exudes a passion for life, perceptible even before he



Happy List: Pat Leacock begins to talk about his fascinating career. "My mother has told me that from the age of three, whenever I saw a record player in one of her friend's homes, I wouldn't step away until they put an album on," Pat recalls.

Teacher and MOBO Award winning musician Pat is currently writing and producing a jazz album. He has had great success both within and outside of the world of music, and he has no intention of slowing down.

"One of my goals is to continue to put on many more events in East Finchley," he said, "such as my Family Function afternoons, and to be at the fantastic East Finchley Festival. I have taught, I have learned, I have laughed, I have fallen in love with jazz and eaten very good pie!"

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Throwaway culture: Anti-fashion industry demonstrators in Wood Green. Photo Mike Coles

East Finchley climate crisis rebels strut their stuff

By Daphne Chamberlain

Shoppers in Wood Green on the first Saturday afternoon in September will have seen a crowd of people in outlandish costumes walking up the High Street, handing out leaflets, singing the Kinks' *Dedicated Followers of Fashion*, and 'modelling' on the catwalk outside the library.

They were having fun, but with a serious purpose. This was part of the XR North London Uprising, designed to bring home to us some startling facts about the fast fashion industry.

Harm from clothing industry

Extinction Rebellion say that total greenhouse gas emissions from textile production are more than those of all international flights and maritime shipping combined. At the same time, 34.5% of primary microplastics are due to laundry of synthetic textiles. They quote the Pulse Report 2019, which says that global apparel production is projected to rise by more than 60% by 2030; from 62 million tons today to 102 million tons. Those effects on the planet would probably be beyond repair.

Haringey Councillor Emina Ibrahim pointed out that the throwaway culture of the clothing industry exploits poorly paid workers around the world. The endless cycle of throwing away

and buying also puts pressure on poorer families here.

East Finchley rebel Hazel Mason told *The Archer*: "We didn't want to seem critical of people's shopping habits when they may not have a choice. We had collected children's clothing to give away. Very generous amounts of clothing were given to us by charity shops in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, and the free clothing stall at Turnpike Lane was much appreciated."

Hazel told us that about a third of the Barnet XR rebels taking part in the event live in East Finchley. She thought that the whole Uprising was very effective. People joined

in, and many wanted to know more about XR and how to get involved. Barnet XR is available on Twitter and Facebook, and local groups can be found on the XR website.

Global Strike

At the time of writing, preparations were underway for the Global Strike 4 Climate and Ecology on Friday 20 September. Muswell Health Complementary Therapy Centre were planning to close their reception for the day, and many of their therapists may be supporting the strike. Eight other businesses in Muswell Hill said they would close for an hour or more.

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