



Toilets and litter are top priorities for Cherry Tree Wood

By Debbie Linton

As reported in *The Archer* last month the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood carried out a survey asking the community about their opinions and aspirations for the wood. Close to 280 people responded and clear front runners were concerns about litter, toilet facilities and updating the woodland management plan to increase biodiversity.

The full results can be seen published on the Friends' website, details below, and the plan is to use the results to help prioritise and shape the activities of the group.

Popular suggestions

Better litter bins came out as a top priority followed by regular litter picks. Adopting the flower beds near the café and tennis courts along with providing a drinking fountain for humans and dogs proved very popular ideas and a nature and tree trail were also well supported.

Improving the wood's toilet facilities was top of the list of longer term improvements. A new larger café with inside seating facilities received very strong support as did providing an inclusive playground and new surfaces for the tennis and basketball courts.

The idea of reopening the Mutton Brook culvert through the park was considered important by 50% of respondents. Other ideas were a new gate at Fordington Road and the provision of a scrape or pond.

Overall satisfaction levels appeared reasonable but 16%

of survey respondents declared themselves either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. This figure is too high and we hope it will fall over the coming years as matters causing dissatisfaction are dealt with and resolved.

Forthcoming events: Litter-pick and history tour

On Saturday 26 October anyone can drop in to help on a litter-pick at 10.30am. A guided history walk through the wood on the same day at 2pm will tell the story of Cherry Tree Wood from being an ancient woodland to the modern day.

In the future the Friends plan to have litter-picks on a regular basis. Come along and help keep the wood tidy on the second Sunday of every month at 2pm. All equipment will be provided.

Get in touch,

membership is free

Contact the Friends by email: friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com, Facebook @cherrytreewood, Instagram @friendsofcherrytreewood or visit the website at <https://wordpress.com/view/friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog>



Natural notes: Helen Tierney, left, and Dinah Beamish play at the Barnwood party. Photo Mike Coles.

A new woodland for everyone

By John Lawrence

Barnwood, the newly restored woodland in Tarling Road, N2, has been granted charity status, making it easier for the green site to be opened up for use by the whole community.

A party was held there on Sunday 15 September to launch it officially as a community forest garden and welcome in neighbours to explore its natural delights.

Charity status means Barnwood's group of seven trustees will be able to raise funds to buy new trees, plants and hedging, as well as securing insurance cover for future community events.

They are already planning nature workshops for groups of young people with learning difficulties from the Harington Scheme, based in Highgate, and there is interest in arranging visits from local groups like Age UK and Newstead Children's Centre.

Chair of trustees Leo Smith said: "The eventual idea is to have it open as a wood for all the public to enjoy on certain days. We are not going to cul-

tivate fruit and vegetables but we hope it will be like a forest garden where there are things to forage."



Reading: Poet Dennis Evans.

A productive year

A little over a year ago, the site was an impenetrable mass

of brambles. Volunteers cleared the land to give the native trees room to breathe and created a new woodland pathway. Funding for materials and other essential items has so far come from Barnet Council and the Grange Big Local project, which also helped specifically in funding the bid for charity status.

Barnwood will next be open for the Grange Big Local Fun Palace event on Sunday 6 October, when the whole community is welcome to come along. Regular dates when the wood will be open to the public are hoped to be arranged soon. Follow Our Barnwood on Facebook and contact the trustees by email at N2Barnwood@gmail.com.

September spring clean in Coldfall Wood

Recent actions in Coldfall Wood have smartened it up and got rid of an unsightly and dangerous relic. Ann Bronkhorst explains what's been done, just in time for this year's Green Flag inspection.

Several metres of rusty iron railings, once an old boundary fence separating the wood from the fields, have been removed: a hard job undertaken by Haringey's Parks Department. They have also painted over the graffiti on a long stretch of wall along the eastern side of the wood and on a much-loved memorial bench. No doubt the vandals will be back but for a little while they are not spoiling the wood for others.

The broken footbridge near the western entrance has been mended and the dog-waste bin nearby has gone. A notice explains that from now on all waste goes into just one bin (not tossed into the trees, please). Several damaged bins have been removed and soon all Haringey's parks and woods will have smart new bins. A

few woods, including Coldfall, will receive specially designed rustic-looking ones after much consultation.

Fly tippers beware

Houses on Barringer Road with gardens backing onto the wood have been leafleted with warnings about fly tipping, following long-standing problems with garden waste and builders' rubble dumped over the back fences. Similar problems occur from time to time behind the Creighton Avenue back gardens. Useful contacts are www.haringey.gov.uk/report-a-dumper or 020 8489 1000.

The Friends of Coldfall Wood hope that these improvements, and others in the pipeline, will help to reclaim and retain Coldfall's Green Flag status and encourage local interest in this delightful ancient wood.

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Convivial Lunch Club

The North London Probus Club welcomes retired and semi-retired PROfessional & BUSIness men and women on the third Wednesday each month for lunch and a talk at Stephens House East End Road N3 3QE. Next meeting 16 October: **Derek Malcolm** talks about his life as a film critic for The Guardian and Evening Standard, and jury service at Cannes and other film festivals.

Details from Eveleen (8455 6431).

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