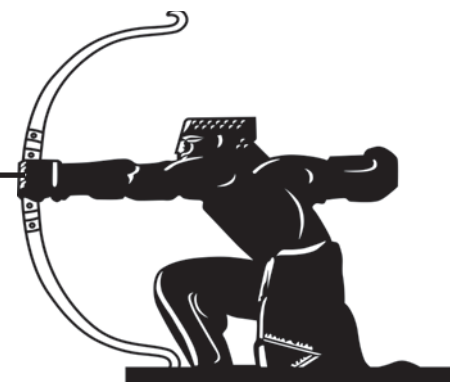


# The Archer

Local News is our Aim



March 2020 No. 311

**A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.**



Torn down: The roof and walls of the pavilion are reduced to piles of brick and timber. Photo Mike Coles.

## Going, going, gone...

By Diana Cormack

**After more than 30 years standing empty, the derelict pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was finally razed to the ground early last month, ridding the park of a controversial eyesore and ending hopes of some sort of redevelopment to benefit the community.**

was built adjacent to Brompton Grove bordering the park in the late 1950s, the pavilion was used as changing rooms for sporting activities in the days when football matches regularly took place on the field; for some time it also housed a playgroup.

However, during the 1980s it was used less and less and gradually fell into a state of disrepair. As it became more dilapidated concerns grew about its safety and many wondered what could be done with the long-standing building.

greater problems than originally thought. Following the theft of valuable tools and equipment, work ceased.

### Green again

Over the last decade the decaying building became a major safety hazard and was eventually fenced off with metal barriers. Its removal after 94 years has created a large clearing opposite the children's play area. Park users and social media are now questioning if anything could be done with it.

Barnet Council told *The Archer*: "At this time there is

no funding in place for anything to be located in place of the pavilion. The area will be cleared and then treated with top soil and grass seed."



Back to earth: The former pavilion site is now bare soil. Photo Mike Coles.

Demolition contractors M&L Stevens Ltd moved in and took only a few days to knock down the brick structure and clear the site. Even the concrete base had to be removed because tree roots had caused it to subside in places.

### Varied uses

The pavilion was originally built in 1926 as an electricity sub-station. At that time, and up until nationalisation in 1948, Finchley Council was responsible for electricity generation in the area.

When a new sub-station

### Big ideas defeated

Two major development plans were proposed, both by leaseholders who ran the kiosk café at the other end of Cherry Tree Wood. In 2008, Sally-Anne Wigfield wanted to turn the derelict building into a community facility with a strong emphasis on education and health. Despite impressive ideas, she was unable to obtain the required funding.

In 2012 Pepe Dostezad started work with the intention of turning it into a coffee bar, but within two years restoration and repairs proved to be

## Green bin sign-up

**Residents who want Barnet Council to collect their garden waste must sign up and pay for the service from this month. There will be approximately 23 collections a year, costing £70 per year for one bin, and £50 for each additional bin per year.**

The deadline is 20 March for ensuring a first collection after the service starts on 6 April. Residents can sign up and pay by calling 020 8359 4600 (option 1) or signing up online at [www.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste) and requesting a call back to make payment.

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