



Litter campaign is really picking up

By Diana Cormack

Following our front page article last month on the litter problem on our streets and in our parks, we are pleased to report that many people in the community ARE tackling it from the ground up.

For example, The Friends of Market Place Playground, close to Holy Trinity Primary School, N2, hold a litter pick on the last Sunday of the month. Whilst Barnet Council's Street Team do the majority of rubbish clearing there, they cannot always be on duty and the Friends believe it to be very much the responsibility of users to keep the space clean, safe and pleasant to be in.



Great little grabbers

Working with the Street Team who provide the necessary equipment along with some funded by Grange Big Local, the main participants are parents and children who use the playground. Children form 50% of the pickers, with child-sized grabbers provided especially for them. For safety they are closely supervised, wear gloves and watch out for sharp objects.

Organisers say the youngsters love working as a team and feeling part of the community in making the effort to keep their playground clean. Plus they are rewarded with a drink and

a snack at the end.

With their fifth litter pick due this month, the main items collected consist of alcohol containers, dog poo bags, sweet wrappers and fast food boxes. Cutlery, car parts and old toys have also been found. They ask you to report any rubbish like broken glass in the playground to Barnet or email friendsofmarketplace@gmail.com so it can be cleared up. If you'd like to join in, their next one is at 10am on Sunday 25 July.

Park pick-ups

The Playground Friends picked up some hints from veterans of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood litter picks which have been going for several years. They are held at 4pm on the second Sunday of each month. The most recent on 13 June produced less litter because, two days previously, a group of Barnet employees had collected there as part of the Great British Spring Clean week organised by Keep Britain Tidy. There are also several locals who regularly do their own litter picks in the park. For more information visit friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com

Of course, if everyone binned their rubbish or took it with them in the first place there would be no need for litter picks.

Person struck by train

By Janet Maitland

A person was hit by a train at Woodside Park tube station in North Finchley on Thursday 3 June. They were treated at the scene and then airlifted to hospital by the London Air Ambulance. "Their injuries are not believed to be life threatening," said a spokesperson at British Transport Police.

Emergency services were called to the station at about 3.30pm following reports of a casualty on the tracks. The London Ambulance Service

sent ambulances, a hazardous area response team and the air ambulance. British Transport Police and the Fire Brigade also rushed to the scene.

Woodside Park Road was closed, buses were diverted and the Northern line was out of action in both directions until the all-clear was given. British Transport Police said the incident is not being treated as suspicious.

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On alert: Police inspect the suspect item in the Bedford Road back garden.

Roads closed after alarming find

By Ann Bronkhorst

It was a fine afternoon for gardening on Thursday 10 June but Solveig Feralet, of Bedford Road, N2, was not expecting to dig up a heavy object about 10 inches long and to face possible evacuation if it turned out to be a bomb.



Closed: Bedford Road and Huntingdon Road were both closed.

Photo Mike Coles

She was impressed by the prompt police response when she reported her find; they took the matter extremely seriously, closing both Bedford Road

and Huntingdon Road as the object was in a back garden between both roads. Children returning from school could not access their homes and curious

residents were not allowed to venture outside.

One neighbour was surprised to be told that the object might be a mortar shell, but after carefully cleaning it police specialists established the truth: it was probably a heavy metal weight from the inside of an old 'grandfather' clock. Solveig's amused response later: "Silly, and perfect."

The roads were reopened, everyone was safe, but in some parts of the world, Syria, Ukraine, for example, finding an unexploded device is a common occurrence and deadly serious. Even here there are still occasional discoveries of UXO (unexploded ordnance) and it is good to know that our police treat every report seriously.



Uncovered: The cause of all the trouble

Music therapy tunes in to grant aid

A new round of grants from Grange Big Local is currently underway for community projects in the area around the Grange estate and nearby parts of East Finchley.

Just starting in-person is the Tuesday Club, a music therapy workshop for young people from the GBL area, run by North London Music Therapy. These workshops will allow teenagers to learn more about music through lyric writing and music software, whilst learning to express their emotions in a safe environment.

There will be six different sessions, on Tuesdays at 5.30pm through until 20 July at Avenue House on East End Road, N3. Dinner and travel are included, and no previous experience in music is neces-

sary. To sign up or for general enquiries email: marianne@northlondonmusictherapy.com

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