



Where does our waste go?

Every week, usually without fail, waste and recycling teams collect the piles of rubbish that we generate in our daily lives. Ann Inglis, of No2PlasticsN2, explains where it all goes to.

What happens to our non-recyclable waste?

Waste from Barnet, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest is collected and taken to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) EcoPark facilities in Edmonton where 66% gets incinerated to produce electricity (in the process giving off heat and carbon dioxide) and 5% is sent to landfill.

Where are those landfill sites? Bletchley in Buckinghamshire and South Ockendon in Essex.

Does any of our landfill get sent abroad? No.

How much of our waste is recycled/composted/reused? 28.4% across the north London area.

What happens to our kerbside recycling? It first goes to Biffa's Materials Recycling Facility in Edmonton, where the mixed, dry household recycling (metal, ie steel and aluminium; paper and card; plastics; glass) is separated. Metal, plastics and glass are sent to other facilities in the UK. Paper is sent to paper mills in Kent, Hertfordshire, Flintshire, Germany and France. Card (increases in online shopping means less paper but much more card) is sent to recycling facilities in Germany, Taiwan and Turkey. NLWA says that is because there is a limited market in the UK for recycled card.

Recycling plastics is not environmentally pain-free. 50% virgin plastic is always

added in the recycling process which increases the amount of plastics in the environment rather than reducing it. The NLWA states that none of our separated plastics is sent abroad. In Barnet it is better to put single use plastics into general waste to produce electricity, than into recycling.

What happens to our green waste? It gets composted in the South East and when fully composted, used on local farms and horticultural settings. Soil, large branches, food waste, nappies, plastics in any form, animal faeces/pet waste/litter, cooking oil, paper and cardboard must NOT be put into green bins.

What else can be recycled and where? Our closest recycling centre is at Summers Lane, North Finchley, London N12 0RF. Visits must be booked in advance. A full list of materials that can be recycled here is available at: www.barnet.gov.uk/recycling-and-waste/

Fridge for everyone

A community fridge may soon be coming to East Finchley, allowing people to leave surplus ingredients for others and take whatever they want for themselves. The Grange Big Local project is hoping to set one up in conjunction with the Co-op and community action group Hubbub. Currently, the nearest community fridge is in Finsbury Park. To find out more or get involved, email info@grangebiglocal.org



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Circus skills: A youngster learns how to juggle with Ludo from Jackson's Lane Theatre at the first Market Place play day. Photo Monica Wells

Play days in the playground

More than 100 children and their families and carers enjoyed music, dancing, circus, face-painting, arts crafts and storytelling at the Market Place playground in East Finchley as part of an event to celebrate National Play Day on Wednesday 4 August.

The packed itinerary, organised by Friends of Market Place Playground and funded by Grange Big Local, kicked off a month of play days there to let youngsters have fun and learn different skills during the summer holiday.

Among the activities they could try were theatre games, Zumba, puppet-making and creating a bug hotel, as well as a chance to examine the finds that were excavated during the Market Place archaeological dig nearby in July. To volunteer for subsequent play days or to find out more about the work of Friends of Market Place Playground email: friendsofmarketplace@gmail.com



Construction skills: A young lad gets stuck into some serious brick building. Photo Monica Wells.

Bogus callers in garden scam

Police said last month that they had received reports of a pair of bogus gardeners in the Finchley area.

On Monday 2 August a vulnerable elderly gentleman with dementia agreed to have some gardening work done. The gardeners completed some very basic work and then charged the victim £600. The victim was taken to the bank

to withdraw the money.

The two men came back to his home the following day and asked him if he wanted any more work done, for even more money. The victim felt pressurised and set his alarm off, at which point the men left.

The East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood team advises everyone to be careful of anyone offering services at the door. They are unlikely to give a good service, value for money or a guarantee for their work.