



ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Clean-up plan for run-down High Road

By John Lawrence

A drive is under way to clean up East Finchley's "grubby and unkempt" High Road in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June. Members of East Finchley Community Trust say they took a closer look at the main shopping street as part of submitting a bid to become a Town Team to run projects and events to regenerate the area for businesses and the community. This made them realise how grubby and unkempt the High Road is. Pavements have ingrained dirt and chewing gum, and lampposts and railings need to be refreshed.

"Litter bins could do with a good clean-up," said trust secretary Roger Chapman. "Shop frames in places are adorned with emergency shutter services stickers and other advertising material. Overall the appearance is one of griminess. "The High Road needs a really deep clean which we consider would involve at a minimum pressure washing of pavements, cleaning and washing of bins, lampposts, signs, all street furniture, graffiti removal and, as importantly, business and community involvement."

Council support for plan
The trust approached Geoff

Mee, Barnet Council's Executive Director, Environment, who backed the idea and asked his department to investigate ways of setting up a joint team to co-ordinate activity between council workers and East Finchley volunteers.

Details are still to be confirmed but any additional costs for the clean-up could potentially be funded by the trust from its charitable sources.

"Now would appear to be an ideal time to tackle this issue," added Roger. "We want to make the case for the High Road to be 'Clean for the Queen' by the weekend of her Platinum Jubilee celebration in early June."

Drop them off, don't send them to landfill

The number of shops and businesses in East Finchley accepting unwanted household items for recycling is growing all the time. Here's the current list of locations where you can drop off those difficult items that might otherwise just go into the bin and from there to landfill, supplied by N2-based group Bin There, Donate That.

- Unwanted glasses and frames to Stewart Duncan Opticians
- Electrical wires to Everything Electrical
- Cables, batteries, bulbs and small items to EF Electricals
- Toothbrushes and electric toothbrush heads to Nova Dental Clinic
- Batteries to Sainsbury's
- Tablet blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy

Emma Frampton, one of the organisers at Bin There, Donate That, says there may be other drop-off points they don't know about and urged all local traders to get in touch if they want to be added to the list.

"This month we hope to find places to drop off stationery, ribbon, old make-up and used stamps," said Emma. "We also hope that Budgens and our other supermarkets will consider taking soft plastics like the scheme recently started at Tesco. The more we can do in East Finchley, the more our high street will be used."

To get in touch with the group, email bintheredonatethat@gmail.com. Volunteers are always needed to research new drop-off points and there are other roles available.



Grab pack: Residents of Lincoln Road clear their street of litter. Photo Mike Coles

Teams of neighbours take street cleaning into their own hands

By Mike Coles

Lincoln Road, like most streets in East Finchley, attracts a fair amount of litter: fast food wrapping, tins, masks and tissues, and all often made worse by the untidy habits of our local foxes.

With side-street cleaning no longer a priority for Barnet Council, Lincoln Road resident Alice Moss decided enough was enough and something had to be done. Posting on the Lincoln Road WhatsApp group she soon had a group of residents ready to join in a communal litter pick.

The next problem was to get hold of litter picking equipment such as pickers, bags, and hoops, but as a friend of Cherry Tree Wood who do their own picks, she

contacted their chair Roger Chapman, who lent her some of the necessary items.

A further phone call to Barnet Council revealed that there was similar equipment available at the East Finchley Library, which was news to everyone! Alice checked when the library was staffed and then collected more pickers, hoops and bags.

Neighbours set the date for

Sunday 6 February, the weather was fair, and in less than an hour the whole street was cleaned up with the bags dispersed among the local wheelie bins. To help things along, local junior cook Lily baked some chocolate cookies for everyone to enjoy.

The litter pick was so successful and improved the look of the street so much it was decided to make it a regular event every six weeks.

Wonders of the deep

East Finchley film maker Luca Pittalis was involved in making the BBC natural history series Wonders of the Celtic Deep, which has been showing on Sunday evenings and is still available on iPlayer.

Luca, of Bancroft Avenue, N2, worked as a shooting researcher on the series, which showcases the wildlife to be found off the coast of Wales. Narrated by Dame Sian Philips, the four episodes were made by the same team behind the BBC's Human Planet.

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East Finchley Baptist Church

We meet each Sunday for worship at 10.30 am. If you would like to join us please go to our website for further details. All welcome.

For more information please contact the Church Office
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