



The Archer

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Published by East Finchley Newspapers CIC
Registered in England & Wales company no 14524944

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Printed by Sharman & Co Ltd on 100% UK-sourced recycled newspaper

The Archer team wishes to thank all the generous volunteers who give up their spare time, in all weather, to deliver the paper for us.

Thank you to The East Finchley Constitutional Club for providing us with a meeting place.

Copy deadlines - January: 13 December; February: 10 January; March: 14 February



Stricken: The fallen hornbeam lies across the path in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo Jeremy Mardon

Tree collapses across park path

By John Lawrence

Questions are being asked after a large tree fell across a normally busy path in Cherry Tree Wood without any obvious cause. Luckily no one was injured in the incident on Tuesday 19 November.

The tall hornbeam broke free from its roots and collapsed across the path between the High Road entrance and the children's playground at around 11.20am.

Eyewitness David Adams was a little further along the path when he heard a noise and turned to see the tree falling, hitting and breaking a large branch on another tree on its way down.

"I hurried to the spot to check that nobody had been hit by it and fortunately saw nobody," said David. "It was strange that there was absolutely no wind provoking the

fall. The roots had simply snapped and the tree inevitably fell."

He alerted Barnet Council who came along to clear the path later the same day, along with an adjacent trunk which may have shared the same root system.

Root of the problem

Roger Chapman, chair of the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, said the cause of the fall was unknown but noted that the roots were shallow and possibly stunted in places.

"It was a coppiced hornbeam. The last time it would have been coppiced would be

at least 100 years ago. Normally they would be coppiced about every seven to 15 years. It could have become top-heavy and the sleet that morning was the final straw," he said.

Barnet Council's tree team survey all the trees in Cherry Tree Wood about once a year. The Friends will be asking the council if that inspection and coppicing schedule needs to be reconsidered in the light of this potentially dangerous collapse.

Thank you to everyone who alerted us to the fallen tree. You can contact us any time by emailing news@the-archer.co.uk

Town Team social all welcome

On Thursday 9 January all are welcome to join East Finchley Town Team's first event of 2025, an informal social meeting at the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2 8DE.

The Team was formed three years ago with the aim of promoting and supporting the High Road in N2. Using a grant from Barnet, it ran successful events to this end, featuring themes like sustainability, music and the arts, including East Finchley's Got Talent at the Phoenix Cinema and a very popular food fest. Gradually they have taken on more local issues, with the development of a town square becoming a challenging long-term project. Visit www.eastfinchley.london for more information.

Everyone is welcome to bring along ideas and suggestions to the social meeting or just come for a chat and a drink from the reasonably priced bar and hear what might be happening in the area. **Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Barnet

121 High Road, N2
Mansard roof extension with terrace area and three rear-facing roof lights to create one studio flat.

21 Beresford Road, N2
Roof extension involving hip to gable, raising of the ridge height, rear dormer window with Juliette balcony and three front-facing roof lights.

Ground-floor flat, 68 Huntingdon Road, N2
Variation of condition 1 of planning permission reference 23/5254/FUL dated 05/02/2024 for 'Single storey side and rear extension. Alterations to

fenestration.' Variation to include clarification of the patio design and steps to garden. Changes to the angle of pitched roof and addition of box gutter along boundary.
Martin Primary School, Plane Tree Walk, N2
Installation of roof-mounted solar panels.

72 Durham Road, N2
Single-storey side/rear extension. Roof extension involving rear dormer window. Erection of a rear outbuilding.

308B Long Lane, N2
Use as a garage.
86 Church Lane
Change of use from commercial Class E) to one self-contained flats (Class C3). Associated

refuse/recycling and cycle storage.

Haringey

Flat 2, Manor Court, Aylmer Road, N2

Removal of non-load-bearing wall (according to structural engineer survey) and conversion of kitchen and sitting room to open plan. The wall is approximately 4m long and consists of a perpendicular wall under a supporting beam and onto an angled wall, closing the space with a door.

28 Church Vale, N2
Internal layout reconfiguration and installation of new domestic lift from level 00 to level 01.

BE PART OF IT Volunteers wanted

Compiled by Lynn Winton

Proms at St Jude's the music and literary festival taking place in Hampstead Garden Suburb every June, is looking for volunteers. They would like help in fundraising, logistics, volunteer management and educational support. Time commitment is likely to be about one day per month. You'll be joining a lively and friendly group and will enjoy contributing to a wonderful festival raising money for the North London Hospice, Toynbee Hall and educational outreach. Express your interest at www.promsatstjudes.org.uk/volunteering

An East Finchley **community gardening project** needs new volunteers. There is a small sloped garden near the entrance to East Finchley Station, known as Station Bank. It has been tended under supervision by volunteer gardeners since 2012. It currently grows a mixture of flowers and fruit but could grow vegetables too. This would be an ideal project for flat dwellers who enjoy gardening. Contact Kate at brown.kate@btinternet.com

Number Champions, based in N2, is an award-winning charity that helps young primary school children who are struggling with numeracy or lack confidence in maths. Its trained in-school volunteers use games and other creative activities in one-to-one sessions with children. If you have good basic numeracy, plenty of enthusiasm, 1.5 hours/week during term time and you're interested in volunteering, visit www.numberchampions.org.uk and then contact volunteer@numberchampions.org.uk.

Food Bank Aid urgently needs volunteers! Flexible shifts mean you can volunteer when you want, helping at the hub near the Vue Cinema in North Finchley to sort, pack and deliver donations to food banks. It's a fun place and there's always tea and cake! Food Bank Aid provides essential goods to 32 North London food banks who help 16,000+ people every week. Please email volunteering@foodbankaid.org.uk and put 'The Archer' in the subject line.

If you'd like your organisation to be included in this column please email news@the-archer.co.uk



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