



Town Team to focus on concerns over parking

By Diana Cormack

Concerns over the new controlled parking zone (CPZ) being installed across the northern half of East Finchley (*The Archer*, December 2023 and January 2024) were discussed at the Town Team's first quarterly meeting of the year, held at the East Finchley Constitutional Club on Thursday 11 January.

The team plans to make the CPZ the main focus of its meeting on Thursday 11 April in response to the concerns expressed by local traders as to the possible effect on their businesses as well as the huge community reaction to these proposals.

Town square

At last year's London Festival of Architecture on the High Road the Town Team invited locals to submit their ideas and

Powers have used some of these ideas along with their own to map out a plan for a Town Square. Early drawings and details were revealed at the meeting and next month's *Archer* will publish them for all to see, so watch this space!

Attendees were also happy to hear that two drop kerbs have been created at Cherry Tree Wood for wheelchairs and buggies to use at the entrance opposite East Finchley station.

Join in

If you want to improve the local environment and services in East Finchley or help ensure the High Road continues to be an inviting and viable place for customers and traders, you are welcome along to the Town Team meetings. They

are held at the Constitutional Club, 9 The Walks, N2 8DE at 7pm for a 7.30pm start on the second Thursday of the month. Contact eftownteam@gmail.com for more information.



Transformation: Pavement plans on show.
Photo Mike Coles

comments about how the wide pavement area between Budgens and Caffè Nero could be improved (*The Archer*, August 2023).

Local architects Mills and



Connected: A guest gets help with her iPad at one of the Age UK digital support sessions

Age no barrier in a digital world

By David Melsome

Older people needing a little help to move into the digital age have been going along to laptop, smartphone and tablet sessions at the Ann Owens Centre in East Finchley, where friendly trained volunteers show them how to use their devices to stay in touch with friends and family as well as perform everyday tasks like online shopping, booking a GP appointment and paying bills.

Age UK has received a £50,000 grant from London Freemasons to Age UK Barnet to run the inclusion sessions and others like them across the borough. Others nearby are at The Mount, Mill Hill International School, Mill Hill from 1pm to 2pm on Wednesdays and New Barnet Leisure Centre on Saturdays from 10.30am to

12 noon.

CEO Helen Newman from Age UK Barnet, said: "We're very grateful to London Freemasons for their generous grant, which will allow us to help well over a thousand older people and their families to access the internet using iPhones, tablets or laptops. These days more and more

services are available online and they should be available to everyone, whatever their age."

To take part in the East Finchley sessions at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, contact Howard on 020 8432 1415 or email howard.chapman@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Youth club coming-of-age party

By Diana Cormack

East Finchley's only remaining independent youth club celebrated its 18th birthday late last year. Launched in 2005 at the Methodist Church hall in the High Road, the club has had a number of homes over the years and is now based at Tarling Road Community Hub.

Despite being called The Monday Club, it meets on Thursdays for 13-16 year olds and on Fridays for 7-12 year olds. Organiser Maureen Clemetson is passionate about providing activities for local children, particularly those from Strawberry Vale and The Grange Estate.

In 2013 her voluntary work with them was recognised when she received a Barnet Civic Award. With the on-going debate regarding the value of youth clubs, Maureen told *The Archer* how strongly she feels about their benefits.

This year she aims to get

parents more involved and hopes to make it more of a community enterprise in which the teenagers feel they are an important part.

Maureen said that she is now on her third generation of youngsters and was thrilled to see them, along with first and second generation members, enjoying a celebratory outing to Roller Nation in Tottenham to mark the club's birthday. Everyone joined in the fun of a family skating session at the home of London's Roller Disco.

Congratulations to all concerned and roll on the next 18 years!



Birthday party: Monday Club members have fun at Roller Nation in Tottenham

Award-winning pasture open in winter

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture, the nature reserve situated opposite the fire station on Long Lane, are continuing to keep it open to visitors from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday mornings through the winter months. This is the time when many of them are there keeping it well maintained and new volunteers are always welcome to join the working party.

It has been an excellent year for the pasture team, who have won their 12th Green Flag Award in a row from the environment charity Keep Britain Tidy.

Long Lane Pasture Trust Chair Donald Lyven and Harriet Duffield, Barnet Council's

Biodiversity & Conservation Officer, travelled to Southampton to collect the award.

"Thankfully our continued success has inspired Barnet Council to enter some of its parks into the Green Flag Award scheme, with Cherry

Tree Wood being the first to be entered next year," said Donald.

The Green Flag Award signifies various achievements in green spaces including cleanliness, safety and available facilities.

BLACKEYED THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH SOUTH HILL PARK PRESENTS

SHERLOCK HOLMES

THE VALLEY OF FEAR

BY SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
ADAPTED BY NICK LANE

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