Chewing gum artist backs bid to save the trees

By Lynn Winton

The campaign to save seven healthy trees threatened by the proposed redevelopment of the Park House site opposite East Finchley station (The Archer, October 2026) continues to gather momentum.

Muswell Hill street artist Ben Wilson, famous for turning discarded chewing gum into art, is showing solidarity with the cause by creating three of his distinctive miniature pavement paintings right in front of the trees.

He spent two days lying on the pavement creating his artworks, whilst engaging with hundreds of curious passers-by who brought him coffees and snacks.

The healthy trees in peril all have Tree Preservation Orders but residents were told at a public meeting with the developers that they will be destroyed in order to build private sector housing on the site.

Five of the trees are birch, one is a yew, and the seventh is a crab apple, planted in memory of three-year-old Sonny Parmar, who was killed in a road accident on East End Road, and who attended Monkey Puzzle Nursery, which recently vacated the Park House premises.

"These trees are just amazing" said artist Ben, "and this green open space is so important. If this new building goes ahead as presented, going right up to the pavement, it will be a tragedy.



Detailed: Ben's finished miniature



Pavement artist: Ben Wilson gets down low to create one of his chewing gum artworks outside Park House in support of the Save the Trees campaign. Photo Mike Coles

"I hope everyone who passes will stop and realise what might happen and that they need to join in the campaign before it's all gone".Ben began his chewing gum art in 2004 and has created more than 10,000 tiny masterpieces on pavements across London, and around the UK and parts of Europe.

Readers who want to join the Save the Trees campaign can use the contact page to be kept informed at **friendsofcherrytreewood.home.blog**, and the QR code in this article to sign the petition on **change.org**.

Peaks challenge for primary school team

A team of 17 staff from Coldfall Primary School in Muswell Hill took on the gruelling Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge in September, raising £10,000 to share between their school and the charity Educaid, which supports educational opportunities for children in Sierra Leone.



Teachers from Coldfall Primary on their wild and windy walk around the Three Peaks in Yorkshire

The team tackled the famous 26-mile route taking in Ingleborough, Pen-y-Ghent and Whernside, with the ambitious goal of completing the challenge within 12 hours.

Sinéad Queeney, one of those who took part, said: "It gave staff a chance to come together outside the classroom, push themselves physically, and raise money for two causes that are particularly meaningful to them."

The Coldfall Primary team's fundraising link is still open and they would welcome any further donations. Find out more here: **https://gvwhl.com/SGXDB**

