



Volunteers work in Bigwood

Over the winter there has been a lot of activity in Bigwood to carry out work set out in the five year plan drawn up by Barnet in conjunction with the Bigwood Volunteer Group. The Group organises six or seven activity mornings over the winter months to carry out selected coppicing in some areas of the wood. The Group also works with Barnet to oppose insurance company demands to fell 100 year plus oak trees on the edges of the wood where the insurance companies allege that they are causing subsidence even though the trees were there before the houses were built!

Barnet wrote to the Group late last year confirming that the council policy continued to be the following. "Manage Bigwood primarily as amenity woodland with emphasis on habitat management and biodiversity"

During the winter the number of glades have been increased to eight and the number of oak saplings planted have been

increased to over 80 where there are gaps in the canopy. All the drains have now been fitted with grills which should prevent flooding in the autumn when the fallen leaves have tended to block the drains. The rusty dog bins have now been replaced and no cycle signs have been put up at every entrance. Unfortunately, since the paths have been improved, some cyclists have been speeding in the wood and at least two people have been knocked down. The paths are designed for pedestrians and cyclists should give way to them.

One area of the plan which has not, yet, succeeded is to interest local schools in the educational possibilities of using the wood. This is disappointing but contact with schools will continue to persuade them of the potential benefits.

Information on Bigwood is available on the RA website under Trees and Open Spaces including the dates of the proposed activity mornings in the autumn. Anyone

interested in joining the Bigwood Volunteer Group should contact them at peter.falk@dsl.pipex.com. There is also a Bigwood leaflet available at the Trust, Gallery and Market Place Library.

The new work to be carried out in the autumn includes clearing the existing eight glades of holly, brambles and ground ivy, clearing up the perimeter of the wood where there is dense undergrowth and both litter and some dumping. In addition dead and fallen branches at the side of the main paths will be cut up and put into piles. The policy of benign neglect in the middle of the wood (areas 4 and 5) will continue as it promotes an ideal habitat for Wild Service trees which are a special feature of Bigwood.

Lastly, together with Barnet, the Group are preparing another application to the Forestry Commission for a grant to renew the signage at the main entrances to the wood, which are now out of date, produce a leaflet on the variety of trees found in the wood, and carry out flora, fauna and lichen surveys.

Top comedians set to raise Archer funds

For one night only on Monday 12 May some of the best stand-up comedians in the country will be coming to the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley for a fund-raising event for local secondary school the Archer Academy.

Milton Jones, a Mock the Week (BBC2) regular, who has also performed on Live at the Apollo (BBC1), will head the line-up with critically acclaimed newcomer Romesh Ranganathan (Edinburgh Festival Best Newcomer Nominee 2013; Mock the Week) and Loretta Maine, a guitar-wielding American song writer character, played by comedian Pippa Evans.

The event will be compered by local stand-up comedian and parent at the school, Ian Stone, ranked by The Independent as one of the top ten stand-ups in Britain. As well as many TV appearances, Stone is a regular at The Comedy Store in London's

Anyone for badminton?

As a semi-retired suburb lady I would like to get together with others to play Badminton on Thursday mornings in the Free Church Hall, Northway.

The hall is believed to be available at that time if enough ladies are interested in playing on a reasonably regular basis.

If you might be interested in playing for exercise and fun, please contact me at 76naft@gmail.com.

HELEN NAFTALIN

or Bridge?

The Suburb Bridge Club invite you to a duplicate bridge afternoon at Fellowship House in Willifield Way on Sunday 1 June from 2.30-6pm. Entrance is £10 per person including refreshments and prizes. All proceeds going to the Fellowship House rebuilding fund. Limited number of places available, which must be booked in advance. For more information and an application form please email tmfjones@btinternet.com. Closing date for applications is Thursday 15 May.

Applications from individuals as well as pairs are welcome.

Gallery shows this summer

The Garden Suburb Gallery, which will be closed after July until Fellowship's refurbishment is complete, is planning events for May to July.

First off a show of Chloe Hilary Gear's wonderful botanical etchings to coincide with the plant sales and flower shows. It is hoped that other botanical artists will join in. That will be followed in June by a selling exhibition of the work of the late Sheila Seepersaud Jones. Painting on ceramics she called it and there are some wonderful

pieces. Proceeds of the sale are for the Marie Curie Hospice.

In July it seemed appropriate to mount an exhibition telling the story of the Club House on Willifield Green, its bombing and rise again as Fellowship

House in the fifties. Stephen James suggested it and we have new material including a picture of the new building that hung in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition of 1958.



Clockwise from top: A selection of Chloe Hilary Gear's botanical etchings; Pre war Willifield Green Club House; Sheila Seepersaud Jones' 'Paintings on Ceramics'



Top comedians set to raise Archer funds

West End. He says, "We've got a fantastic line-up for The Phoenix and I'm delighted to be involved in this event for the school."

It promises to be a great night and members of the public are invited to join in the fun, whilst supporting a local, community-focused school. Tickets cost £25 plus booking fee and can be bought from www.tinyurl.com/archercomedy. The evening will start at 8.30pm, doors opening at 8pm. Please note that the event is for over 18s only. For any further information please email info@thearcheracademy.org.uk.

Milton Jones



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See Unwin's inspiration

The trip to Rothenburg, Germany, being organised under the joint auspices of the Trust and the Residents Association, draws close.

The three day, three night study tour to the Bavarian hill top town, whose architecture inspired so much of the Suburb,



will be led by David Davidson, Architectural Adviser to the Trust, exclusively for Suburb residents.

We will meet in Rothenburg on the afternoon of Tuesday 20 May, organised visit ends Friday 23 May. The size of the party is restricted to 34 – booking on a first come, first served basis.

Travel accommodation and payment is the responsibility of individuals. £250 per person will be charged to cover the cost of the organised events.

To confirm your place on the trip please contact the Trust office where Lauren Geisler is waiting to answer any queries. lauren@hgstrust.org, 8455 1066.

A frightening experience

A reader who would rather not be identified writes, "On Tuesday 2 April at about 6.15pm a gang riding motorcycles smashed their way into a house on Widecombe Way. Four people involved in the raid used the bikes to smash open the front door and then went through the house taking items of value.

The whole raid was over in a matter of moments and the

occupants returned home to find the police in attendance.

This blatant and frightening attack is not the first on the Suburb and may be part of a worrying trend of crimes committed in broad daylight.

Residents should be aware of any suspicious behaviour in their street and report to the police anything that causes them concern."

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