

newsletter

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

**Pictorial
edition**



When the rains come Chaville Court is always flooded



Pity the residents of Chaville Court when there is heavy rain or a cloud burst. The path outside their entrance is inches deep in water and waste. To avoid this condition, residents have to walk the sodden slippery grass, in order to get to where the path is only relatively wet. This in itself is a journey with the hazard of falling and landing in the mud. (The image above was taken on Saturday 3rd October 2020.)

This water does not drain away - in the Autumn and Winter the residents have to wait for the slow process of natural evaporation.

Chaville court is a block of flats at the north end of Beaconsfield Road. This particular section of the flats is close to the foot tunnel that runs under the railway line, between Oakleigh Road South and Beaconsfield Road. It is this section that always gets flooded.

In the June 2007 edition of this Newsletter we published an

article on exactly the same problem, stating that we had contacted Barnet's "Priority Intervention Team Community Protection Group" (yes, that was what "Street Enforcement" were called in those days - who knows what they are called today). Barnet Council did a bit of clearing up and, finally, Thames Water were galvanised into taking remedial action.

This time around, we have to ask, 'Who is responsible for sorting out this problem with the water company?' Is it up to the Council Tax paying residents themselves? Or, maybe it's the responsibility of Barnet Council? Could it be the Barnet Council website? Perhaps, it is Capita, who seem to be responsible for everything to do with Barnet services.

This time around the water company should replace the pipes that are full of cooking fat and rubble and not simply try and clear the pipes. The Council, through its officers, or Capita, or whoever is responsible, should get the water company to do a proper, long lasting job.

HG

Goodbye Boydens - Hello Allotments



Boydens - on the corner of Beaconsfield Road and Friern Barnet Road - became a successful cafe, serving the local community. Many spent their mornings there, working on their laptops. Now it is just a memory. In its place we have 'Allotments', a West Indian themed cafe/restaurant.

In the summer the outside seating area of the new place proved very popular. As can be seen from the rising cloud of smoke, they have a slightly different way of cooking chicken.

A welcome addition to the local scene, let's hope they make it through the days of the virus, as well as the winter.



MONKEY PUZZLE TREES IN WHETSTONE AND FRIERN BARNET



Magnificent example of a mature Monkey Puzzle tree, in Chandos Avenue, with high branches. The Monkey Puzzle tree originated in the Jurassic age. It is claimed that the tree had to evolve higher to avoid the dinosaurs eating the lower branches. So, the dinosaurs had to evolve and become taller in order to reach the branches.



This example of a Monkey Puzzle tree is to be found where Bellevue Road meets Friern Barnet Road.



A young monkey puzzle tree in Friern Barnet Lane



Detail of the leaves of the Monkey Puzzle tree

Friary Park childrens' playground renewed



Catch the colour in North Finchley before it goes

Colour has been added to the North Finchley street scene in the last few years, which have seen a number of fruit and veg shops using their frontages to display a wide array of low cost produce for us to eat.

Barnet Council's plan for North Finchley is to have none of this. Their vision is to replace what we have with an array of very tall blocks of concrete, steel and glass. No room for the small trader in their plans.

The Council claim that North Finchley needs regeneration but it is their policy that has led to a certain amount of degeneration. Their parking policy has been disastrous for trade and no matter how many times local traders pleaded to change the Council obstinately refused. The Council could have, for example, given an hour's free parking. (No problem with getting a free hour parking at Moxon Street in High Barnet.)

To 'pump prime' this plan, the Council will flog off the only assets they own in North Finchley - the car parks. So, where will we park when visiting? As the consultant, employed by Barnet, said, 'Somewhere else.' Knowing, or not knowing, there is nowhere else.

The same consultant, when asked to give an example of a good town centre, came up with 'Palmers Green' - a town centre more in common with North Finchley than any redeveloped town centre in London.

What of course is of great concern, is the developers plea that unless they can build bigger and bigger, then their redevelopment is not 'financially viable'. This is happening in Enfield, where local citizens are being told that only a 26-storey block in the town centre can make the redevelopment financially viable.

So, enjoy what we have now, shopping late at night for grapes and watermelon. For when it is gone, it is gone for good.

As the Major said, at the time of the Vietnam War, 'We had to destroy that village to save it'



NEWS FROM FRIARY PARK

When did you last dig up a hedge? Spare a thought for the six of us who removed the Box-moth-murdered hedge round our FBWRA shrub bed in Friary Park last month. Good teamwork, but it was tough going – as witnessed by five of our damaged garden forks (see *photo below*).

We have put in the c.100 replacements – *Euonymus Jean Hugues*, not Box – by the time this reaches you. The Friends of Friary Park (FoFP) – most of us also FBWRA members – have, for the third year, been planting lots more daffodils in the Park, to cheer us all up in the spring.



From left to right - Debbie Lane, Julian Katin, Edward Margiota, Nick Phillips, Richard Tester and Yvonne Ruge

In early September FoFP also ran its annual Guided Tree Walk, with Sandra Lea. It's always popular, but this year, as a welcome open-air release from lockdown, it was.... quite startlingly popular. What with the social distancing it was hard to hear at the fringes, despite the microphone; so next year there will definitely be smaller groups with email place reservation, irrespective of what Covid is up to.

The Park café now has winter opening, trading only at weekends. But it should be busier now that the play area has re-opened with some new equipment. In particular, the long-awaited replacement climbing frame must be truly state-of-the-art. It has me wishing I were five years old again!

YR

Membership

Membership of FBWRA costs only £5 per household per calendar year, payable on 1st January. It provides quarterly newsletters, e-mail updates, social events, meetings on local issues, and a chance to influence what happens in your neighbourhood. Application forms from FBWRA.org or from FBWRA Treasurer, 12 Macdonald Road N11 3JB

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Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are non-political • We work for all residents in the area • We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials • Associated with the following bodies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federation of Residents' Associations of Barnet • The Finchley Society • Friends of Friary Park • Open Spaces Society | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society • Coppetts Wood Conservationists • The London Green Belt Council • Love Whetstone |
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Forthcoming Events

Incognito Theatre, Holly Park Road Performances are Sunday at 6pm, Monday - Friday at 8pm, Saturday at 3pm and 8pm.

All shows cancelled until further notice

FRIERN BARNET & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
start 7:45 p.m.

Meetings postponed until further notice