



Noel Lynch and Miranda Dunn inspect the land. Photos by Erini Rodis

Not Such a Fair View

By Erini Rodis

A wall has finally been built to stop local children from wandering onto what was effectively a dumpsite in Long Lane, just north of the North Circular Road.

The 8ft high surrounding wall was completed in early July in response to complaints by nearby residents about the noxious fuel smells and potential dangers that inevitably lurk on a disused van depot.

The land was owned and run as private family business, until it was sold to Fairview Homes for over half a million pounds in 1998.

Green machine

Local Green Party Chair Gardi Vaswani, Miranda Dunn and GLA officer Noel Lynch made a recent inspection of the site. Among the rusty vehicles, piles of old tyres and other abandoned detritus were an aboveground diesel tank and an underground fuel tank, which needed the inspection of Jean Fincken, petroleum inspector for the fire brigade.



As petrol is much more flammable than diesel, legislation is tighter around it, so her concerns are as to whether a petrol tank is deemed unsafe. Over the years however, paperwork has disappeared, and so tests are underway to identify the contents. Ms Fincken is nevertheless confident that, "Fairview Homes are aware of the tanks, and they will notify us on the development of the site. They also know that they must excavate very carefully indeed."

Picking it Clean

What do a pair of car number plates, a petty cash box, a kitchen hob and half a bottle of whiskey have in common? Along with the usual sweet wrappers, cans and a few more sordid items, they were all things which were discovered during this year's litter pick at Cherry Tree Wood held on Sunday 29 June.

The litter pick is an annual event organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Fortunately, this year the sun shone, encouraging a group of volunteers to assemble at the appointed hour, eager to try out the litter grabbers and gloves which Chris, the park keeper had provided. Plastic aprons advertising the event were also available which several litter pickers sportingly wore.

Gathering momentum

From there, the event gathered momentum with children enthusiastically joining in and passers by breaking off to help out. Some stayed close, roaming the grass field, missing nothing. Others ventured to the far corners of the wood and wrestled to free long discarded rubbish from the undergrowth. What they shared was a real enthusiasm to help clean up the wood. "Why not make it a more frequent event?" asked one volunteer. Another said, "I often despair at the litter in the wood and feel I should do something about it. I just needed an event like this to spur me into action". With more than two-dozen participants at this year's event, it was clear that this is a view



Doug Campbell of Park Hall Road with Chloe Campbell aged five, Robbie Campbell aged three and five-year-old Jasper Crockford. Photo by Diana Cormack

shared by many.

By the time the last volunteers wandered back at around 1.30pm, an impressive pile of black rubbish sacks had built up; and the wood looked clean, really

clean. Not satisfied with that, an energetic group of Friends then turned their attention to the picnic area, mulching the shrubs which had been planted the previous year.

Summer at the Library

**Activities for Children:
The Reading Maze – this year's summer reading challenge.
Fortnightly Saturday craft activities.**

- **Tuesday 5 August 2pm:** Family Reading group for 4-7s
- **Thursday 14 August 10.30am:** Family Reading Group for 8-11s
- **Thursday 28 August 9.30am-12noon:** Drop in. Get some work published on the web.

Call in at the library, 226 High Road, for more details or telephone 8883 2664

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