



Avenue House Estate Trust

Avenue House News

Volume 1, Issue 2

April 2010

Avenue House Estate partnerships

Avenue House is a large, historic mansion in Finchley Central, on East End Road and behind the Spencer Court flats on Regent's Park Road.

The London Borough of Barnet owns the estate, but leases it to the Avenue House Estate Trust (AHET). The Trust is a charitable company which manages the estate for the good of local people. The Trustees themselves are all local people who use the estate, and are elected by the members of the Trust. Apart from our full-time manager, they are all volunteers

The estate gardens are open to the public every day during the hours of daylight.

The Trust works with local bodies to provide them with facilities for meetings and events. In recent months we are delighted to have set up two new partnerships.

Most people living in and around Finchley know of the superb work done by the North London Hospice. We're delighted to have set up a partnership with the hospice, hopefully to the benefit of both charities.

The Hospice will be holding a fund-raising event in the Avenue House Estate on Sunday 18 July. Please put the date in your diary; details will be on our web site, and on the Hospice's, later.

The Hospice will also run its Xmas Fayre on 21 November, in the house, stable block, and tea rooms. Again look at the web sites, or future editions of this newsletter, for details.

The Hospice web site is www.northlondonhospice.org.uk.

We're also working with the newly set up Finchley Women's Institute, and hope that they will regularly use the estate premises.

You can find details of our other partners on the Avenue House web site, which has a full list of them.



Spring in the gardens



The Salon—set up for a wedding

Future events at Avenue House

19 April 2010, 19.30

Race Night

Come and join us for an evening at the races—and take your chances on our tote.

There will be films of action-packed races, with commentary by Channel 4 Racing's Derek Thomas.

The bar will be open, with nibbles available.

£5 a head

27 June 2010

15.00 to 17.00

Barnet Band Concert

Weather permitting, Barnet Band will be performing in the gardens, and there will be a small number of stalls, including the Trust—do drop by.

There will be a barbeque and a bar available if you feel hungry or thirsty.

**£2.50 a head entry
(£2.00 for kids over 5)**

11 July 2010

Them with Tails

Advance notice that we hope to organize an event by 'Tall stories' for children on this date. It will be in the rarely opened Bothy gardens, and full details will be on our web site, in posters, and in the next edition of this newsletter.

Do book the time in your diary now.

Avenue House Room Hire

- Details and pictures of all the rooms, and how to hire them, are on our website.
- Avenue House is a licensed venue for civil weddings.
- We've refurbished the stables block—it's ideal for children's parties.
- We can arrange catering for your event at Avenue House, from tea and biscuits to a full formal meal.
- We can provide equipment for business meetings: projectors, flip charts, audio visual, etc.

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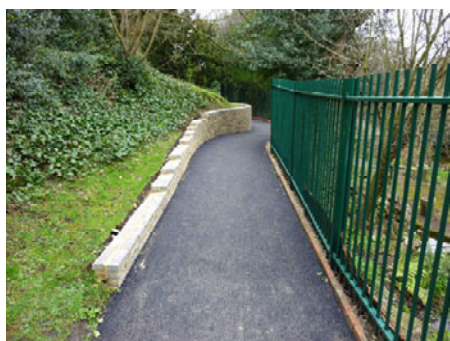
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The restored Bothy gardens



Work on the paths

Grant for the estate

The Trust has been most fortunate in getting a grant of £100,000 from the Community Spaces Lottery Fund to improve the estate gardens.

Using this funding we've already completed work on the path and the wall at the top of the stairs from the waterfall area, and we're about to start work on a new watering facility near the back path of the grounds to enable us to keep the shrubs and trees watered in this area.

We will also be using the grant to improve the fencing along both East End Road and the cricket ground boundary, and to refurbish the path from the Sylvan Avenue entrance to the middle path.

All of this grant funding has to be used on agreed projects—it is not, of course, available for the general running costs of the Estate.

Restoring the Bothy gardens

In the south-east corner of the Avenue House estate lies the Bothy, a grade II listed stables block dating back to 1884. Behind the Bothy, and surrounded by its walls, are the beautiful Bothy Gardens.

At the time the Trust took over these gardens they were almost a wilderness, but a small group of volunteers meets every Friday morning between 10.30 and 13.00 to work on them. The gardens are not normally open, but if you want to look round them please do call in on a Friday morning—or, even better, offer to join in and help the work!

The Gardens will be open to visitors regularly through the summer we'll put the dates up on the notice boards when we've settled them. Please come and visit these gardens then, to see this hidden feature of the estate.

Trust Details

- Avenue House Estate Trust gets no subsidy to operate the estate. All our earnings from room hires and donations are ploughed into running and improving the estate.
- The Trust has raised, and spent, over half a million pounds on the Estate since 2002.
- Avenue House Estate Trust's annual report and accounts are available on our website from the link 'Report and accounts' in the bottom right-hand corner of our website.
- You can contact Janett Durrant, our manager, or any of the Trustees, through our email address or the website

Avenue House FAQs

How can I help support AHET in its work?

This depends on how you would like to help. We are always happy to hear from people who can volunteer their time, skills or knowledge. **(We're particularly interested to find a Quantity Surveyor at present)**

Financial support is always welcome, especially regular donations, as these give us a steady income during the inevitable ups and downs of the year. If you can set up a direct debit, drop us an email and we'll send you a form.

If you want to get involved in the Trust, please email us to discuss becoming a member.

What facilities are there at Avenue House?

Apart from the house, and the rooms for hire, there are extensive gardens in the estate. There are two large grassed areas at the top and bottom of the gardens, separated by a water feature and trees.

On the upper area is a well-equipped children's play-ground.

On the lower area is our café, open from 11.00 every day during the spring, summer and autumn.

Please feel free to picnic, but we do ask that there are no barbecues, to avoid fires.

Can I take my dog into Avenue House Gardens?

We welcome dogs being brought into the estate, but ask that they are responsibly controlled.

Regrettably, there have been five recent incidents of dogs biting visitors in the gardens, all in a period of six weeks.

We have decided to re-introduce the regulation that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Although we have had some complaints about this, we have had far more compliments; we ask all dog owners to co-operate—and also to ensure that dog waste is placed in the bins we provide for it. Thank you.