

Pinkham Way Alliance
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Emma Kirkby concert raises vital funds for
fight to stop waste plant as locals turn out in force

A concert of Early English songs given by the renowned singer Dame Emma Kirkby has boosted Pinkham Way Alliance's funds by almost £5,000.

Dame Emma, who is a Muswell Hill resident, battled a throat infection last Sunday (November 20) to give a characteristically poised performance of songs by John Dowland, Henry Purcell and others whose works have made her the world's foremost exponent of the early music repertoire, and the winner of this year's Queen's Medal for Music.

She told more than 300 supporters of the Pinkham Way Alliance who crammed St Andrew's Church, Muswell Hill, that it was important to challenge council plans to build Europe's largest waste-processing plant on their doorstep and that she was proud to be able to give her services in this 'precious cause'.

Dame Emma was joined by the world-famous lutenist Jacob Lindberg who flew specially from his home in Sweden to accompany her on the lute.

Pinkham Way Alliance member Sakina Chenot, a Bounds Green resident who first thought of the idea of asking Dame Emma to perform and helped to organise the event said:

'It was really good of Dame Emma to sing for us, especially in view of her throat infection. She obviously realises what a long and costly battle this is going to be, if we are to challenge this threat to our local environment. The packed audience showed how much her contribution is appreciated, as well as the strength of local feeling on this issue.'

Ends

Notes for editors

Seven north London boroughs are planning to spend £100 million of council taxpayers money building the waste treatment plant, and then pay for a 30-year, multi-billion pound contract to run it. We believe it would be much cheaper and better all round if money were put into increased efforts on recycling and re-use.

The plans for a mechanical and biological waste treatment factory on the site of Pinkham Wood include a building that will be 150m long and 23m (75ft) high (plus chimney), and located just 85m from the nearest dwellings. We have many major concerns about these plans, including massive traffic congestion from 1,200 vehicle movements a day (most of which will be trucks) on one of the busiest stretches of the North Circular Road, increased pollution, major problems with smell, and the loss of an important green space. There are at least 11,000 homes within a 1km radius of the site and many schools, the nearest of which is only 300m away from the site.

We contend that the North London Waste Plan is deeply flawed, especially in the way the criteria used to select the Pinkham Way site were applied. The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) put its planning application before Haringey Council in June. See our website www.pinkhamwayalliance.org for more information.

Pinkham Wood has been untouched since the 1960s and has become a refuge for bats and rare plants. Haringey council has designated it as a grade 1 site for nature conservation.

The waste plant would be one of the biggest of its kind in the UK - similar plants in Europe are built far away from towns and cities where they can cause less disruption to people's lives.