



Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters to The Editor

Doormat deluge

Dear Archer,

With reference to your recent article about recycling in Barnet, I was wondering if any of your other readers get as annoyed as I do with all the rubbish that drops onto our doormats: two free newspapers, which appear to be full of advertisements and not much else, various menus for food delivery services and all those taxi card numbers that, like buses, come in threes or fours.

Then there are the ads for cleaning services and decorators, not forgetting the estate agencies telling you how they can sell or rent your property. Do they not realise that if you wanted those services you would pick up the phone and call them, as there are enough to choose from in the High Road?

And then there are the unsolicited letters that arrive by the mail addressed to the occupier, often begging letters from various charities.

All this rubbish makes up 90% of the paper that I put in my recycle bin. I just wish there was a way I could control this unwanted paper dropping through my letter box, as I can with email (auto delete).

Still, I suppose this is just another sign of the throwaway society we live in today.

East Finchley resident  
(name and address supplied)

Dumping rags

Dear Editor,

In your March issue under the heading 'Real charity begins at home' I was aghast to read your article suggesting that rags or rubbish, for want of a better word, were not good enough for the charity shop but were ok to send to Third World countries.

Only a few nights ago, I saw a programme where the rich countries like Britain were putting the Third World rag trade out of business because market traders in those countries were buying our old stuff and selling it to the public resulting in the local factories being closed and workers being put out of a job. Some people are even sending their dirty undergarments.

It's a case of it not being good enough for Mrs Jones but just right for the poor and needy in the Third World countries. They are the rich countries' dumping ground. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

An avid reader  
(name and address supplied)

EF on KFC TV

Dear Archer,

I don't know if anyone spotted the use of East Finchley tube station in the TV advert for Kentucky Fried Chicken's 99p Mini Fillet. This is not a product I am familiar with but I thought you would be interested.

David Tupman  
Leicester Road, N2

Stanley Field

Dear Editor,

Having just read the article in THE ARCHER on Stanley Field, I definitely think that it should be converted into a sports area. It is badly needed by everyone, especially schoolchildren.

Their plans sound excellent, and I wish all people concerned in this project all the help they need.

Good luck to them.

F.M. Stevenson.  
High Road, N2

Not up to scratch?

Dear Archer

What a debacle! Barnet Council with its iniquitous Stealth Tax is making us, the local residents, pay even more for the privilege of parking in our road and receiving visitors.

Woe betide the person who makes a mistake when filling out the visitors' parking permits. My latest one-sided dealings with the parking team have been negative. I say one-sided because they appear immovable in their conviction that the parking wardens are always right.

My 76-year-old mother visiting us scratched the correct day and month out but unfortunately started to scratch out the wrong date (the day before) on the visitors' permit. She corrected this and put it on the dashboard of her car. She received a penalty notice.

I appealed and was told the visitors' permit had not been visible. Despite having sent in photographic evidence to the contrary, no one was prepared to listen. These are not the only tickets received and I am fed up with it. It appears the High Road is out of bounds as well! Consultation is needed. Can we residents make a difference and stop Barnet?

Denise Blake  
address supplied



Binnie Barnes. Photo courtesy of Maureen Knight

More about Binnie

Hello,

I came across your article on Binnie Barnes recently; Binnie was my maternal Grandmother's youngest sister. She was one of three girls and one boy born to Sarah Jane Noyce and William Barnes, not the 12 or 13 that was reported in her early biographies.

I have been researching my family history for the past five years but have still not found the exact date that William Barnes died but I believe it to be 1914/15 as Binnie's mother remarried around that time to Allen Newman and again in February 1917 to Charles Careless when once again she was a widow.

The address at the time was Cottenham Road, which I believe was in or near Holloway and I am doubtful about the farm in Kent. It is more likely to be an association with Kentish Town.

Binnie's brother Walter George was killed in WW1. As you can see from the details below, her mother was indeed living at 9 Prospect Place.

**Debt of Honour Register:**  
In Memory of W G BARNES Corporal 1592, 1st Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on Friday 4 June 1915. Age 21.

Additional Information: Son of Mrs Newman, of 9 Prospect Place, East Finchley, London.

Hope this is of interest,

Regards  
Maureen Knight

Daphne Chamberlain replies:

At last! This is one of the missing links in the Binnie Barnes story we have been researching for several years.

Binnie, born in 1904, starred on the London stage, in Hollywood

films and on American television from the 1930s to the 70s. We knew she lived around Prospect Place, although East Finchley was apparently never mentioned in her biographies, but couldn't find any corroboration.

I am also really pleased to see that the name of her stepfather, Careless, is the name that the late Cyril Wilds associated with her. Cyril assured me that this was her name at one time and, although I couldn't trace the connection, he was usually so knowledgeable that I was sure he must have been right.

So thanks very much, Maureen!

The festival of

Passover:

A personal perspective

By Kathryn Salomon

The Jewish festival of Passover (*Pesach*) is celebrated in the month of *Nisan* (in the Jewish lunar calendar) which roughly corresponds to March or April. It celebrates the Israelites' flight from slavery in Egypt to freedom.

We eat *matzah*, unleavened bread, during the eight days of the festival because, in their haste to escape, the Israelites did not have time to let their bread rise.

The main celebration takes place at home. The family and their guests use a special book, the *haggadah*, to recount the story of the Exodus, ensuring that even the youngest members participate and have the story explained to them.

Extra songs are sometimes added if they are relevant, such as 'Let my people go' or 'If I had a hammer'. The recounting of the story involves a great deal of symbolism and many songs.

We are told we must feel as if we ourselves have been freed from slavery in Egypt and this can be interpreted as an instruction to care for all those less fortunate than ourselves or to consider the plight of refugees. There is a duty to ensure that the poor in the community can participate in the *Seder* (Passover service).

It is very hard for small

children to sit quietly until the meal so there are various ways to maintain their interest. For instance, the youngest child has a special part to say. Also the '*the aphikoman*' (a piece of *matzah* which must be eaten at the end of the meal) is hidden by the leader of the service, the children search for it, hide it themselves and only give it back in exchange for a small present.

Just before the meal we list the plagues which afflicted the Egyptians. In my family we sing a special song about frogs which our grandchildren learned at kindergarten and then I produce toy frogs. The most popular are rubber frogs which stick out long tongues when you squeeze them.

The contents of the meal vary according to where each family can trace its ancestry; *Sephardi* Jews from Spain eat different foods from *Ashkenazi* Jews from Central Europe.

After the meal we sing songs and then the youngest children fall asleep or join in, in whatever way they can.

Muswell Hill Festival

For the second year running, the Muswell Hill Festival - including the Donkey Derby - will be held in Cherry Tree Wood. This year's date will be Sunday 11 September, 12 noon to 6pm.

The Festival is in aid of the Hornsey Trust for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Possible sponsors, stallholders or volunteer helpers should contact the Trust's Alison Wynn on 8444 7242, 020 8340 2524 or 07808364033, or at alison@onlib.com or info@hornseytrust.org.uk.

Medical secretary/receptionist required 35-40 hours a week by physiotherapy practice N2. Job share considered. Must be computer literate with fast audio typing speed, Microsoft Office. Training will be provided for use of database. Send CV and covering letter to: Wendy Longworth, East Finchley Clinic, 3 Bedford Mews, Bedford Road, London, N2 9DF

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