

**Letters****Car owners beware**

Dear Editor,

There has been a spate of thefts from cars near where I live in recent weeks. The evidence is there from all the broken glass on the pavements in the mornings.

Someone I know had their radio stolen and another car had its spare tyre stolen from under the boot.

As there seem to be more incidents like this about, this is a warning to all car owners to make sure you lock it up securely and hide away any belongings that might tempt a thief to smash your side windows in.

Yours faithfully,
Claire Rossiter,
Long Lane, N2

My clothes just disappeared

Dear Editor,

If only I had taken notice of the "Bogus Bag Collectors" article on page 6 of the November ARCHER. Just two days after reading it I put out a bag of clothing for the Great Ormond Street Hospital's (GOSH) appeal. I put it out at midnight before the collection day, but thought that was safe to do because I live at the closed end of a cul de sac.

The bag was beside our front door, not out on the pavement, and I didn't think anyone would come down here without reason. The next morning, I went to put something else in the bag, but it had gone. However, in my road and surrounding roads, there were plenty of GOSH bags still waiting to be collected.

I am wondering whether to stop contributing in this way and to only donate my goods to local charity shops. How sad that what has become a traditional method of giving to different charities should be spoiled by those whose only thought is to take.

Yours regretfully,
DE Cormack
Cherry Tree Road, N2

Library service under review

Dear Editor,

In your October issue, Mr Gilbert of the Friends of Barnet Libraries is reported as calling for a widespread discussion on the future of the library service. In fact, such a review has just been announced by the Government, and is headed by civil servant and ex-Chief Librarian Andrew Stevens.

In addition, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has commissioned projects into specific aspects of future provision, such as the role of bookshops.

I am sure that these reviews will deal with all the issues which are of concern to the Friends, and a good deal more besides. Of course, they may have become aware of them since your report was published. If not, details are on the MLA web-site (www.mla.gov.uk). Or speak to your local librarian.

Yours faithfully,
John Bagley
Stokes Court, Diploma Ave, N2

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

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, at publication.

Learn to lobby

An East Finchley author has published a book revealing the secrets of getting your voice or your cause heard in public. Dr Stuart Thomson has co-written *Public Affairs in Practice* which argues that the power and importance of local people and local communities is growing.

Two recent campaigns in East Finchley have used the power of local people; firstly against a mobile phone mast at Holy Trinity church and secondly against Waitrose coming to the High Road.

Dr Thomson, of Manor Park Road, said: "These campaigns have shown how effective it is to mobilise local feeling and how strength in numbers can make a difference. Councils and companies alike are increasingly aware that they have to take notice of what local people say.

"Whether it is dealing with planning applications in the area or being part of a more nationally co-ordinated campaign such as a boycott, we all have more power. Government changes to the planning system mean that developers are under a duty to consult, and it is important to ensure that we make the most of this opportunity.

"Knowing the decision-making system you are dealing with, where the pressure points are, the timescales, and the relevant people you need to engage with are all important parts of being a lobbyist."

Dr Thomson, Senior Public Affairs Adviser at law firm and Parliamentary agency Bircham Dyson Bell, uses his book to explain the skills needed to be successful in public affairs and tells organisations how to engage with the Government, MPs, the Civil Service and other policy makers.

Phoenix Kids Club is back

By Lois Lawrence

The Kids Club is running again on Saturday mornings at the Phoenix Cinema. I went to see *The Corpse Bride* with my friends. I liked it because we did activities before the film.

We made masks of ugly people and put them on ourselves and then we played a game of Consequences where we all had to make up a story line by line.

We were sitting down in front of the seats right by the screen. When we had finished we could sit wherever we wanted and then other people came in to watch the film with us.

My friends and I had crisps and drinks. I like going because everyone is very friendly and everyone gets involved. The films are always good too.

Saturday Kids Club activi-

Help your local hospice

The North London Hospice Shop at 123 High Road celebrated its 15th birthday in October. There are now 10 of these charity shops, the latest being a large one at 377 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, which can take small items of furniture (phone 020 8447 8884).

Every year, more than 1,300 terminally ill patients and their families are cared for in their own homes and at the Woodside Park in-patient unit. The hospice receives only a small amount of funding from the NHS and, as a registered charity, relies heavily on donations. It must raise more than £3 million a year to continue providing free comprehensive care to the people of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Any old phones?

As well as supporting the shops by giving or buying goods, you can also help by handing in your old mobile phones and chargers for recycling to raise money. Hospice moneyboxes are available to pop loose change into at your home or in your work place. At virtually no cost you can visit www.everyclick.com and choose the NL Hospice to support, then let everyclick do the rest.

Ebay expert wanted

Sometimes the charity receives collectable items and, at the time of writing, is looking for a volunteer to help sell such things on eBay. If you are interested call fundraising on 020 8446 2288 for more details.

Plans are under way for the provision of a children's hospice. Whilst there is already some funding to support a small service in the community for children, a great deal more will be needed to build the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice to serve Barnet and Enfield. Anyone interested in helping with this is asked to phone the Appeals Office on 020 8449 8877.



Eugenia von Piccardio, who manages the East Finchley hospice shop with Mary Boylan. Eugenia and the shop featured in THE ARCHER's second birthday edition of February 1995. Photo by Diana Cormack

Wave goodbye to nits

By Diana Cormack

National Bug Busting Day on 31 October aimed to tackle the persistent problem of head lice. Schools have differing methods of dealing with an outbreak. Parents and carers worried about using insecticidal shampoos may be pleased to learn about a special combing kit which can be used in conjunction with normal shampoos and conditioners. The kit is reusable and suitable for all the family because it contains a variety of scientifically designed combs to remove both adult and baby lice.

Hair today ...

The idea is to break their life cycle and stop them from reproducing. However, to be successful, hair must be checked and combed through regularly when it is wet. Looking in dry hair doesn't solve the problem because the newly hatched lice (nymphs) are tiny and hide when disturbed, so inspections by the school nurse ("Nitty Nora") are now a thing of the past.

Feeling lousy

Nits are the white empty egg cases stuck to the hair shaft in which the nymphs have hatched over seven to ten days. Lice reproduce after six to fourteen days and live for a month. They cannot jump, fly or swim but are passed on by direct head to head contact. They cannot be caught from pillows, etc. because they are like heat seeking missiles and aim directly for a warm scalp from which they can suck blood. This is what often, but not always, causes the itching that reveals their presence.

Anyone can catch head lice; it does not mean that your hair is dirty. To get rid of them, however, it is essential to use a regular wet combing method every few days over a two week period or more.

A non-profit making charity, Community Hygiene Concern (CHC), produces the Bug Buster Kit, which the British Medical Journal, August 2005, said was four times more effective than insecticides for treating head lice. It costs under £8, contains clear instructions and at the time of writing is available at Andrews Pharmacy and Cootes Chemist on the High Road. For more information visit www.nits.net/bugbusting or call 020 7686 4321.

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LOOKING FOR HOMES

- Kit the Cat, affectionate male grey tabby 10 months old
- Quiet affectionate young B & W cat with her lively kitten
- And several other cats and kittens

If you think you can help get in touch with the local cats charity

ANIMAL AID AND ADVICE
48 HIGH ROAD EAST FINCHLEY
OR PHONE 7607 1723

**LOOKING FOR A CAT**