



Letters to the editor

Festival better each year
Dear Archer,

I am writing because I think the criticism of the festival in the last edition of THE ARCHER is unfair. The festival has been a great event for as long as I can remember, and every year it seems to get better.

The festival has a lovely range of charity and craft stalls. I would much rather give my three grandchildren money to spend on the imaginative Martin or Holy Trinity School stalls, for example, than on the tacky, rip-off funfair type amusements you see at other festivals.

I would like to thank the large number of local residents who volunteer their time to help make the festival a success, and hope they are not disheartened by the negative comments.

Yours faithfully,
Pauline Kelly
Rew Lodge, Church Lane, N2

Buses still bunching
Copy of letter to London Buses, dated 9 September 06

I write again in connection with my letter of the 1st inst, which detailed excessive waiting times for the 263. I have received no reply to same, nor to my phone call to your office on the same subject, when I was promised the matter would be investigated and a reply sent to me.

Following a slight improvement in the service which I mentioned, I am sorry to report that during the past week or so, it seems to have deteriorated considerably, with waiting times

of up to 30 minutes, compared with the stated 10 ñ 12 minutes.

On one occasion, after waiting in the High Road, N2, for fully half an hour for a bus towards Archway, two 263s arrived absolutely together, as if they were tied together. There have been numerous instances throughout the week of the awful "bunching" of buses on this route which we have written about so often. I refer again to the American tourist who, seeing so many of our buses travelling in pairs, wanted to know if they do so through fear of being attacked by angry natives.

Following on the restlessness of the general public about this service, and letters in the local press, I am starting to wonder if that time is beginning to approach.

I do hope, with the use of modern technology, action can be taken to improve this service, or ñ failing that ñ could we have another bus on this route, like we did in the old days, when we had the 104 and 17 running also? After all, we have two buses running on the Fortis Green/Muswell Hill route (the 102 and 234). So why on earth can't we have something similar?

I look forward to hearing from you, and hope for brighter news!

Very sincerely,
L. Burgess
Creighton Avenue.

Editor's reply:
As we reported last month, East Finchley Bus Watch is campaigning for another route along the High Road, suggesting the extension of the 17

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

to North Finchley, plus an improvement to the 143 service. The Group carried out all day surveys last month for a full week, sending the results to TFL and Barnet Council. One of the findings was that passengers along Fortis Green are sometimes getting more than three times the number of buses as those along the High Road and East End Road.

Cheap and cheerful
Dear Editor,

Myself and my family and friends had a fantastic time at East Finchley Festival. We really loved the music from the main stage, especially the new multicultural talent.

After reading the August issue of your newspaper, I was gob-smacked when you talked about the festival being commercial. To be honest, my friends and I did not pay a penny, as there was no entrance fee and no commercial stalls. Most of the stalls we saw were local businesses, charities and voluntary groups.

It was so great that we sacrificed the football for this spectacular event. We had a cheap and cheerful Sunday afternoon, and can't wait for next year.

Sheena Shah
Southover, N12



The Artful Three. Photo by Diana Cormack

The Artful Three

By Diana Cormack

The work of three local artists with disability is to be exhibited and will be offered for sale to raise money for the Barbara Bus Fund (a charity which provides accessible transport for the wheelchair bound) and for the Homefield Gardens Community Hall. The sale will take place next month in the Community Hall at Homefield Gardens, situated just off Stanley Road, East Finchley.

The artists, Sippy Azizollah, Edna James and Michael Solomons, live at Fairacres, which houses Jewish Blind and Disabled people, at 164 East End Road. Seeing the impressive work of the other two inspired Sippy to organise the exhibition. Paintings and pottery plus Sippy's own laptop artwork will be on display. Homemade greet-

ings cards by Joan Croggon will also be sold in support of the Barbara Bus Appeal.

The art show and sale will take place on Saturday 4 November from 12 noon until 3.00pm. Cheese and wine will be available to those who come along and give their support to this innovative event.

Music past and music future at East Finchley Arts Festival

A centenary concert in memory of local musician Charles Proctor and an appearance by teenage clarinettist Julian Bliss are two of the highlights of the East Finchley Arts Festival which is running from 5-15 October.

Proctor, born in Market Place in 1906, had a distinguished career as conductor, organist and teacher. Bliss, still in his teens, recently played at the Queen's Birthday Prom and will be performing with Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Simon Lepper (piano) in a programme of clarinet trios.

Here is the full programme for the festival. All events take place at All Saints Church in Durham Road.

- **Thurs 5 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Piano Recital by Rimantas Vigras*, featuring the works of Bach, Schubert & Scriabin.
- **Fri 6 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Victorian Evening*
- **Sat 7 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Charles Proctor Centenary Concert*. Geoffrey Hanson conducts Jennifer Bate on Organ and London Ripieno Singers, performing the works of Stanford, Parry, Elgar, Proctor, Howells
- **Sun 8 Oct:** 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm: *Mister Peter's Puppets* perform St George & the Dragon. Tickets £1
- **Sun 8 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Bliss, Rosefield, Lepper Clarinet Trio* perform music by Bruch, Debussy, Beethoven, Martinu & Brahms
- **Tues 10 Oct:** *Art Exhibition Open Evening* in aid of North London Hospice
- **Wed 11 Oct:** 7.30pm: *London Vintage Jazz Orchestra* - Classic big band jazz
- **Thurs 12 Oct:** 7.30pm *Dore Ensemble* perform the works of Ravel, Bax, Faure, Debussy, Takemitsu
- **Fri 13 Oct:** 7.30pm: *London Mozart Players* perform Haydn, Hanson, Salieri, Mozart
- **Sat 14 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Theatre Roundabout* - Barchester Towers
- **Sun 15 Oct:** 7.30pm: *Finchley Children's Music Group*, Visit the website for more details: eastfinchleyartsfestival.org.uk

Tickets: London Mozart Players £15, all other events £10, concessions £8, children under 16 £1. Season ticket £30.

Box Offices: Coral Travel, 50 High Rd N2, and Les Aldrich, 98 Fortis Green N10.

Did you know?
One young Archer reader spotted that part of a recent video released by the Scissor Sisters was filmed in East Finchley!

Barnet commits to plastic and card recycling by 2008

Barnet Council has promised that kerbside recycling collections will include plastic and card, but not until 2008.

Many Barnet residents want to add plastics and card to their black boxes but the

council is tied in to a seven-year contract with recycling firm ECT which left these two materials off the list.

A council study in 2003 is said to have revealed that the cost of adding plastics and cards to the contract before it comes up for renewal in October 2008 would have been an extra £5 million.

In the meantime, residents are urged to take their plastics and cardboard by car to the recycling centre in Summers Lane, although some would say that this adds to atmospheric pollution.

Coming up at artsdepot, North Finchley:

- Thu 12 - Sat 14 Oct,** 8pm & Sat 3pm: *The Play What I Wrote*, a celebration of Morecambe & Wise.
- Fri 13 Oct** 8pm: *Barnet Folk Club*
- Fri 13 Oct-Sun 19 Nov:** *Urban Elements, Mark Maxwell*
- Sat 14 Oct** 6:30-8:30pm: *Pratham* by Beeja Dance Company;
- Sun 15 Oct** 10am-4pm: Black History Month: *Stories, Rhythm & Hair*
- Sun 15 Oct** 7:45pm: *Wallace Ensemble*, Mill Hill Music Club.
- Wed 18 & Thu 19 Oct** 8pm: *The Journey & In Praise of Folly* by CandoCo Dance Company;
- Sat 21 Oct** 8pm: *Pedro Luis Ferrer*
- Sun 22 Oct** 8pm: *Sophie Solomon*
- Sun 22 Oct-Thu 26 Oct** 10am-4pm, performance Thu 26 Oct 5.30 pm & 7 pm: *CandoCo Collaborative Residency*
- Mon 23 Oct** 12pm-4pm: *The Big Draw*
- Wed 25 Oct** 8pm: *Vocal Sampling*
- Thu 26 Oct** 8pm: *An Audience with Sir Trevor McDonald*
- Thu 2 Nov** 7:30pm: *Tiwa Tiwa*, Bode Lawal Sakoba Dance Theatre
- Fri 3 Nov** 8pm: *Gretchen Peters*, Barnet Folk Club.

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- 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

