



Give your dog a holiday too

Long-standing East Finchley resident Suzana Amaral is offering your pet the chance to have a holiday of its own when you go away this summer. An established dog walker for many years, Suzana and her Labrador Eros started boarding dogs last year following many requests from her walking customers.

Suzana feels that people are much happier knowing that their pet will be in a welcoming home environment rather than in boarding kennels when they are away. She makes sure she gets to know dogs before their owners go away so they won't fret for their family. While staying with Suzana, long walks on the Heath are the order of the day, with playing and swimming also available.

For enquiries about boarding or dog walking, please contact Suzana on 020 8444 3310 or 07801 845 409.



Suzana with her "charges". Photo by Toni Morgan

The power of the pen

In these days of emails, mobile phones and texting, it's heartening to know that a trusty pen and paper still has its place in the world of modern communication.

Walking down Long Lane and The Walks recently, one ARCHER correspondent came across three handwritten public notices in quick succession.

The first was inside a plastic sheet pinned to a garden tree. The homeowner had clearly been the victim of a particularly petty theft and wanted to give the perpetrator a message. The

note read: "Potted plants were stolen from this garden. The police have been informed."

By contrast, a few yards further on was a sign encouraging passers-by to take something away. An upright vacuum cleaner stood a little disconsolately by the rubbish bin with a note attached: "Needs a new belt. Free to a good home."

Then it was back to small crime. Abandoned on The Walks was a Budgens shopping trolley (with the £1 deposit removed). A local resident, clearly angry at the thoughtless dumping, had attached a note to the trolley asking whoever left it so far from home to return it to the store.

So, did the handwritten messages get results? Well, the proud gardener will be lucky to find out who swiped his pots, but the shopping trolley had been removed 24 hours later and the vacuum cleaner was gone too, hopefully into the care of a loving new owner.

How much food do you throw away?

The typical household throws away £250 - £400 of edible food each year. On average we waste around one-third of all the food we buy and in Barnet this food waste accounts for almost one-third of our rubbish.

As this wasted food rots away in landfill it generates methane, a climate change causing gas that is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

How to be less wasteful

- Stop before you shop: make a list and shop with specific meals in mind so that you buy only what you need.
- Use it or lose it: plan meals with the use-by date in mind.
- Avoid soggy surprises: keep your fridge at 1-5°C to get the best from your food.
- Love your leftovers: make delicious meals from your leftovers.

OBITUARY

Eric George

By Simon Hindley

Eric George, who died on 21 June aged 85, was a familiar figure in East Finchley and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Eric grew up in Hastings, where he taught himself to play the clarinet as a teenager and was soon playing in dance bands along the south coast. After serving in the Gordon Highlanders during the war, Eric became a full-time musician, working as a saxophonist, clarinettist, pianist, and arranger.

Over the next half century he played jazz, big band music and even calypso, and had a pseudonymous hit in Jamaica with a recording of *My Mother's Eyes*. His last regular gig was with the Herb Miller Orchestra, a big band founded by Glenn Miller's brother.

The hours that Eric worked during his career as a musician left him almost nocturnal in his habits: he regularly arrived in Madden's Ale House around last orders for a couple of drinks before setting off home for his lunch.

Jazz was Eric's first love, but he was also a big fan of the Goon Show, written by Spike Milligan, who Eric had met and played with during the war, when Milligan was primarily a trumpeter.

Although not always in the best of health during the last few years of his life, Eric remained a gentleman to the end, never losing his innate courtesy or sense of humour.

Ladies of the night

Nearly 200 ladies supporting North London Hospice and Noah's Ark Children's Hospice came together on 30 June for a midnight walk that raised a staggering £25,000. The two hospices serve the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

As the clocks turned midnight on a wet night a sea of determined ladies, wearing navy blue 'Midnight Walk' T-shirts, could be seen sloshing their way under the balloon arch start line.

For many, it was the first time they had attempted such a challenge. Clare Elliott, whose mother-in-law had been cared for by North London Hospice, said, "I took part in the Midnight Walk with my sisters as a way of thanking the staff and to help them continue with the excellent work they do."

For further information about Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, contact Gill Dodge on 020 8449 8877 and for information on the North London Hospice, contact Theresa Bowman on 020 8446 2288.



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Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.



Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

Nightmare in Cherry Tree Wood

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Despite the success of the East Finchley Community Festival, a cloud darker than any rain cloud that day seems to hang over Cherry Tree Wood: the fenced-off pavilion, the absence of a park keeper and the state the wood was in the day after the festival.

Just a few days later, there was a large barbecue inside the pavilion veranda, against the wall, with a hole burnt through the bottom. Could this have been done by the same arsonist who destroyed the old kiosk café?

Some say a flaming wheelie bin had been pushed against the building in a similar way. This barbecue had obviously been left to burn, I suspect with the intention of destroying the pavilion.

Upon closer inspection, I discovered part of the fencing quite easily swung away, like a gate, accounting for how the barbecue was pushed inside. Another nasty surprise was a hole in a fence guarding the tube tracks, and pieces of lineside cable supports scattered in the woods.

Don't get me wrong. I love this park and I firmly believe it needs improving, not abandoning. The pavilion needs restoration, possibly through volunteers, as no business has been willing to do this.

Like many readers of *THE ARCHER*, I want a park keeper back. The paths need resurfacing, play equipment needs improving, and the football pitch needs to be reinstated. I also support the idea of having an assault course put in, effectively an adult playground, probably in the wood itself.

If Cherry Tree Wood is to get a green flag award, we need to turn the tide on its neglect. I believe we can do it.

Letters

Bridge needs a separate walkway

Dear Editor,

I write in response to your invitations for suggestions to improve the East End Road bridge. I do not think narrowing the road and installing traffic lights is a good suggestion. Why can't they build an iron or steel walkway to the side of the bridge over the railway line and even cage it in, then pedestrians will be able to walk safely across? They could even widen the road for the buses. I am not sure what the cost would

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, on request at publication.

be but I am sure it's not as high as the £200,000 suggested by Barnet Council to improve the situation.

Yours faithfully
Maggie Golden
Sylvester Road, N2

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