



Letters to the editor

**Cherry Tree Wood should be cherished**

Dear Editor,  
Might it be worth THE ARCHER sending a copy of its survey of what people like so much about East Finchley to Barnet Council? So many of the adults and children you had in your paper had something positive to say about the wonderful Cherry Tree Wood.

As everyone who lives in East Finchley knows, Cherry Tree Wood is a lovely amenity to have on our doorstep. It is pretty to walk through in all seasons, a great place to sunbathe and picnic and a safe place for families to play.

So why does the council seem bent on letting it go to rack and ruin? The decision to take away its park keeper makes no sense to me. A beautiful park like Cherry Tree needs looking after on a regular basis. The reason that it is in such a good state must surely be because it has had a park keeper up until now.

Unfortunately, the signs that our park needs some TLC are becoming clearer by the month. The café is still closed. The tennis courts and toilets are in a poor state of repair and the pavilion continues to be an eyesore.

Barnet Council, please bring back the park keeper and spend a bit of time and money looking after Cherry Tree Wood. East Finchley will thank you for it.

Yours faithfully,  
**Claire Stanford,**  
Leicester Road, N2

**Disgraceful Bishops**

Dear Editor,  
I frequently drive or cycle up and down The Bishops Avenue to get into town and find the road an absolute disgrace. It is constantly blocked by building work and riddled with rubble and pot holes, so it's a danger to drivers and cyclists alike.

One weekend last month, the road was closed completely in the middle but the warning signs were almost unnoticeable and I witnessed dozens of cars - and a coach! - trying to do three point turns after being caught out.

I realise the ridiculous size of the houses on the avenue and the sheer wealth of their owners means there is always likely to be construction work going on somewhere but the builders who are doing the work really should be more accountable for the state in which they leave the road surface.

Can Barnet Council and Camden Council not patrol the avenue and ensure it is fit for us humble council tax payers to use? I suspect that as it is a road that is right on the boundaries of each local authority, neither of them is particularly interested.

Yours faithfully,  
**Rob Filistad**  
Kitchener Road, N2

**Black cab hazard**

Dear Editor,  
In addition to parking bollards being installed in the forecourt at East Finchley tube station, which has restricted space for drivers to drop off or collect friends and family, there are now black cabs waiting in the forecourt. When several are parked next to each other, and monopolise the forecourt, it becomes difficult and sometimes quite dangerous for other drivers to manoeuvre around them.

Yours faithfully,  
**Name and address supplied**

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

**Betting shops are no bad thing**

Dear Editor,  
Whilst reading your letters (THE ARCHER, March 2007) and enjoying what people are saying regarding the district, I read the letter from Richard Devey saying betting shops are a blemish on East Finchley's landscape, which made me see red.

I am wondering if Mr Devey has ever been into one of the three betting shops in question to qualify him saying they are disgusting?

Let me please tell him that the staff in these so-called disgusting places are most friendly and helpful and the shops are very clean. The comradeship inside these shops, together with the nice type of people, is very good. You won't get mugged or robbed there, as you may do in other parts of East Finchley.

Will you please inform Mr Devey that his opinion is not welcomed by all who live in the district.

Yours faithfully,  
**Mr M James Sadgrove**  
Address supplied

**We made the Top 20!**

By Anita Rai  
Last year I wrote an article for THE ARCHER about a business I set up as a result of an allergy I developed to an adorable little puppy. Three years ago, www.drivensnow.co.uk was born to sell products that help allergies and are free from harsh chemicals.



Anita Rai. Photo by Diana Cormack

The webshop has grown organically since then but we still operate from an office in my house in Ingram Road, East Finchley. It's a great feeling when I sell a product to alleviate a cat or dog allergy and find out that the family pet can stay put.

Last October, the Evening Standard asked for entries to the O2 Small Inspirational Business Award. I felt I had an inspirational story so I decided to enter DrivenSnow. The prize was £100k worth of advertising in the newspaper. It was definitely a long shot.

Then in December I got a call from the paper. They told me I'd been shortlisted out of thousands to the last 50. I couldn't believe it. It was amazing to be recognised by such a high-calibre panel of judges, including Karen Darby,

the founder of Simple Switch, and Adam Balon, one of the founders of drinks company Innocent.

I forgot about the whole thing over Christmas until I received another call telling me we'd reached the last 20 and would get a profile in the paper. This was just too good to be true. And then the day came for the winners to be announced, and there I was in the newspaper! Unfortunately we didn't win, but it was such a fantastic feeling to be recognised by the judges, and hugely motivating. I felt my business idea had been validated and the whole experience has given me the impetus to really push my company forward.

**Clear the clutter**

Are you tempted to have a spring clear-out but don't know where to start? Local businesswoman Phoebe Oldrey has set up an interior design company and here offers her tips on cutting out the clutter.

The designer William Morris said: "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." Of course sentimentality and guilt about the money spent get in the way of a thorough clear out.

So find ways to use sentimental items. I use my silver christening mug as a make-up brush holder - this way I enjoy looking at it and it's not filling up a drawer. As for the worry of what something cost, think about how much it costs to keep. Are you about to buy a chest of drawers to keep stuff you don't like? Try selling it instead and the money you make could go towards your new piece of furniture. If it is hard to sell, try www.freecycle.com.

Think beyond your storage preconceptions. A chest of drawers for CDs is frequently easier to use and less unsightly than open shelves. Things you don't need regularly could live in a trunk doubling as a coffee table. Always leave space to grow; after all, Christmas is only a few months away.

When it's time to shop, don't just look, try it out. Check the internal space; some furniture can look big but is built in such a way that it's small on the inside.

Keeping things organised makes life easier. A simple, cheap solution inside drawers is to use the free gift boxes from shops for separating items. The top of a chest is a great place for displaying a few of your sentimental treasures. Now sit

back and enjoy your new clutter-free room.

Phoebe can be contacted at her company Smartstyle Interiors on 020 8343 0003 or via her website www.smartstyleinteriors.com.

**In memory of Dietrich**

On Saturday 16 June the internationally famous *Endellion String Quartet* will be visiting All Saints' Church, Durham Road, to give a concert to the memory of local musical instrument maker Dietrich Kessler who died last December.

The concert will include Quartets by Mozart and Webern and the String Quintet by Schubert. Proceeds will be given towards a trust fund founded for the preservation of the unique collection of instruments which Dietrich assembled during his lifetime. Tickets at £15, to include wine, may be booked on 020 8444 6630. The concert begins at 7.30pm.

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