



Danger crossing needs a rethink

By Daphne Chamberlain

Some ARCHER readers are concerned about the safety of the crossings at the junction of High Road and East End Road, particularly following the recent fatal accident there. The Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association have told us that they have been corresponding with Barnet councillors about the dangers at this junction for about a year and a half.

Chairman John Hajdu said: "The situation is getting worse and the minimum requirement is a filter into Fortis Green at least during the evening rush hours. In addition the central reservation opposite the Institute is much too short so cars do a u-turn (illegally) to get into Baronsmere Road, stopping all traffic both ways." The association has also suggested installing a CCTV camera at the junction.

Council response

Council Leader Mike Freer has told him that introducing filter lights would require TfL approval, which is not forthcoming. A right-turn filter would cause problems for southbound traffic along the High Road, which is already often very

congested. Cllr Freer has asked whether there could be a filter for evening peak times only.

He said that the only ways to improve traffic flow would be either to make major changes to the junction, which would mean acquiring properties, clearly not an option, or to re-route traffic along neighbouring residential roads. This would be against Barnet Council policy, which is to keep traffic on the main road and off the side roads.

Barnet officers have visited the junction with police, and concluded that no physical changes are necessary. Barnet's Highways team do not recommend extension of the traffic island, and Barnet has no plans to introduce CCTV cameras to control junctions.



Ann Brown with fellow volunteer Wayne are among the team who have transformed Long Lane Pasture. Photo by John Lawrence

Secret green space out in the open

By John Lawrence

A miraculous transformation is taking place on a small parcel of green land sitting almost hidden alongside the North Circular.

In the past two years, Long Lane Pasture has evolved from an overgrown thicket of brambles into a beautiful open space featuring a wild-life pond, neat walkways and

a butterfly border.

All this has been achieved by volunteers who turn up each Saturday morning to do the back-breaking work of digging and clearing.

Little green oasis

There is much more still to do but Ann Brown, from the Long Lane Pasture Trust, says the day when the pasture will be fully open to the public is not far away.

"We want to provide open access," she said. "The pasture needs a lot of care and maintenance but it's a beautiful spot and we want people to enjoy it."

Ann and the other trustees are negotiating with Barnet Council to win a longer lease than the current five-year arrangement. Their commit-

ment to the land has been shown by the startling transformation they have achieved in such a short time. They were also successful in winning two grants from the Big Lottery Fund to provide a metal fence around the pasture.

This year, the volunteers plan to finish off the landscaping of the pond, clear away even more brambles (which have a habit of coming back), and create a viewing area on the pasture's highest point, which enjoys a panorama across the rooftops of Finchley.

If you'd like to join their work, you'll find the pasture open from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday mornings. The entrance is opposite the fire station on Long Lane.

Where have all the Kinks' goods gone?

By John Lawrence

Earlier this year, we reported on the reopening of the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green and the mystery disappearance of much of the Kinks memorabilia that used to be on display there.

The pub, opposite the birthplace of the group's founding members Ray and Dave Davies in Denmark Terrace, used to boast a proud collection of Kinks artefacts but, since its refurbishment, this has now been reduced to a small collection of photographs next to the toilets.

Susan's signed disc

One of the items that hung on the walls of the Clissold for many years was a copy of the group's first release *Long Tall Sally* donated by its owner Susan Rose. The Davies brothers autographed the disc for her in 1963 when she bumped into them outside Tudor Records in Muswell Hill.

Susan, of Barrenger Road, Muswell Hill, now holds out little hope of ever seeing the treasured 45 again. She has made efforts to track it down through the pub's new management company but with little success.

She told us: "I remember them writing 'To Susan' on the centre of the disc for me. I was in my school uniform at the time. Later, I offered to loan this to Kinks Corner and the then manager framed it and put it on the wall, where it remained until the pub closed down."

"As successive managers came, I pointed out to them

that this record was in fact mine and said that we were happy for them to continue displaying it, so long as they realised it was my personal property. When the pub closed down in 2006, I put a letter through the door, but never received a reply."

Lost, stolen or strayed

Susan now fears her record may have been passed on to a collector or sold privately but she has no way of proving this. "I saw an unsigned copy of this record going for £45 on eBay two years ago," she reports. She has

written to the Clissold's owners Enterprise Inns, based in Solihull, West Midlands, but they have been unable to help.

Enterprise Inns told THE ARCHER that they kept all the items they could find when the refurbishment started last year. A spokeswoman said: "We have retained as much Kinks memorabilia as possible in the pub as we know there is a strong history with the band."

Susan's only hope now is to keep checking eBay and to keep her eyes open at record fairs.


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