



Putting on the style

By Diana Cormack

The March issue of *THE ARCHER* carried a report about a motorist in Ingram Road who had been issued with a penalty notice, despite leaving a visitor parking voucher clearly visible on his car's dashboard. This was his mistake: Lewis Lawton should have held it in place with the car window nearest to the kerb, following the instructions on the voucher.

His sister in law Rachel Kolsky told us that the penalty notice has since been withdrawn, apparently because the parking ticket had not been fully completed. As yet, neither she nor Lewis has had a reply to their specific appeals, which involved the positioning of visitor vouchers and the wording on them.

However, *THE ARCHER* has discovered that in some areas of the borough visitor vouchers have already been altered. As long as nine months ago new

hook-shaped vouchers were introduced. These have to be attached to the vehicle's rear view mirror, where they should remain for the traffic warden to inspect. Barnet says that eventually the hook-shaped vouchers will be used throughout the borough. Outstanding old stock is still being sent to "less busy zones". Presumably this includes East Finchley, unless there are readers who have already received the new style visitor vouchers?

Making a stand for cleanliness

By Diana Cormack

THE ARCHER's article pointing out the state of the newspaper stands outside East Finchley tube station seems to have had some effect. In February reader Eugenia von Piccardio brought the area to our attention saying: "It's not very nice for visitors or locals to look at."

If they were not partially full of soggy old newspapers, many of the 15 stands were being used for litter although there are plenty of litter bins nearby. The surrounding pavement was not a pretty sight either, unless you were a rat.

However, a phone call to

Barnet Customer Services seems to have done the trick. Not only has the litter been cleared away, but some of the stands have been removed too. So well done to those responsible for cleaning the place up and let's hope people manage to keep it that way.

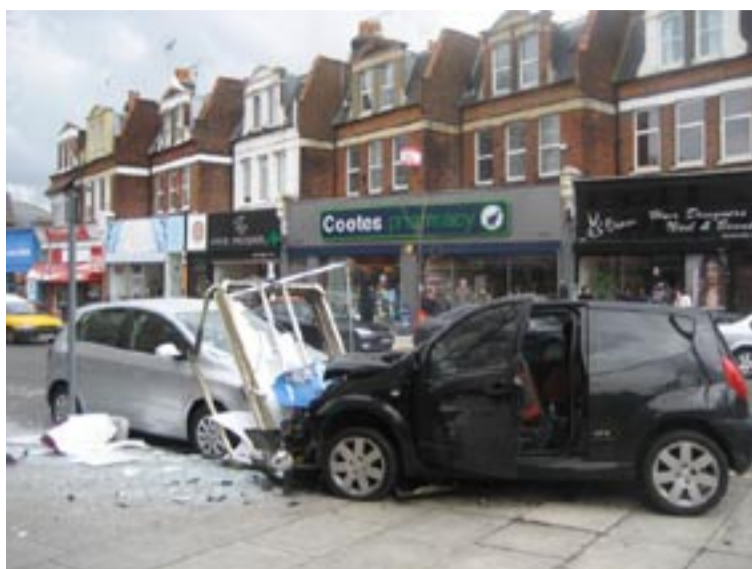


Spot the difference. Above: how it was, and below: a better welcome to East Finchley. Photo by Diana Cormack



Advertising squeezed in High Road crash

An advertising hoarding was demolished in a collision at the junction of Kitchener Road and High Road on 18 March. Witnesses said a car travelling north was in collision with the hoarding and another car parked there. Police were soon on the scene of the accident. The advertising hoarding has since been removed. Our pictures were taken by John Crivellari at Plummers.



Spring clean

By David Attfield

Cherry Tree Wood was given a much-needed spring tidy-up on Sunday 16 March, thanks to a litter pick organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood. Wind and rain kept the number of participants to low double figures but, as anyone visiting the park over the following days could vouch, the small group made a big impact.

Around 20 sacks were filled with debris of various sorts. As ever, among the beer bottles and crisp packets were some unusual items: this year's tally included a smoker's pipe and a very bent basket-ball hoop.

The event benefited from the support of Barnet Council, who provided equipment and two park keepers to help out on the day, a sign perhaps of

more positive relations between the Council and the Friends. Sadly, litter is already building up again. Happily, a local Brownie plans to run a similar event in the summer.

If you are interested in the Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, you can contact them at info@cerrytreewood.co.uk or by writing to 88 Summerlee Avenue, N2 9QH.

Safety options for Church Lane

Barnet Council says it will consider the best options for speed control and traffic management in Church Lane.

Last month, we reported on a safety petition organised by nine-year-old Izzy Engler following a car crash outside her house. Residents are asking for vehicles to be slowed down on the road, which links East End Road and High Road.

The options being considered by the council are a 20mph speed limit, signs at either end warning motorists of concealed junctions and one-way restrictions, junction signs at Long Lane and King Street, liaison with local schools to improve pedestrian safety and the extension of the cycle lane from Leslie Road to East End Road.

Barnet Council told us that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the area's environment sub-committee on which option or options are most suitable.

Indelible ink

If you want to hear about one of Finchley's hidden gems, go to Avenue House in East End Road on May 29 where Eileen Kenning will be talking about the Stephens Collection, a museum of writing material and equipment, and about the history of the Stephens Ink Company.

She will show the film *Blue Black*, the story of the Stephens family and how the ink was developed. The Finchley Society talk starts at 8pm. Non-members are welcome with an entry fee of £2.

Dr Henry Stephens invented the famous blue black ink in 1832. His son Henry then marketed it worldwide. When he died in 1918, he bequeathed Avenue House and its estate to the people of Finchley.

Watch it, Ken

A reader reports that she nearly ran over London mayor Ken Livingstone on 10 April. The near-miss happened when he and his entourage were crossing the road near the Phoenix Cinema end of Fairlawn Avenue. Apparently Ken had to take a step back, but gave a winning smile of apology.

Lily Powell

Mrs Lily Powell, the great-great-grandmother of the Five Generations story in our February issue, passed away on Easter Monday. We send our sympathy to all her family and friends.

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