



**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
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Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

Archer in the pink

Dear Editor,

The splendid July ARCHER was a bit like watching the famous 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* where Dorothy, played by Judy Garland, leaves the black and white world of Kansas in mid-America and goes through the farmhouse door into the Technicolor world of Oz.

While there may be no yellow brick road in N2 with jaywalking Munchkins, nor the infamous 263 bus travelling as far as the Emerald City, *THE ARCHER* is clearly playing a big part in a more colourful East Finchley.

Yours faithfully,

**TN Man,
Leicester Road, N2.**

Simply the best

Dear Sir,

Through the medium of *THE ARCHER* I would like to congratulate the organisers, volunteers, stallholders, entertainers and members of the public services in attendance for making this year's East Finchley Festival one of the best I remember.

The weather was kind, the atmosphere benign and the visitors were all bent on having a happy day out. I was particularly pleased to see so many stalls promoting local organisations and local businesses. All concerned deserve a big thank you for their efforts.

Yours faithfully,

**Mary Atkinson,
Summerlee Gardens, N2.**

Metal benches leave me cold

Dear Editor,

I was glad to read that Barnet Council was persuaded to put the Millennium Bench back in Cherry Tree Wood. Fenella Reed mentions that it is "very comfortable" (Letters, *THE ARCHER*, June 2009). All the old wooden benches were more comfortable than the new metal benches, which are too cold to linger on most days of the year. They're unwelcoming to people who visit the park. Many parents and elderly people rely on having somewhere comfortable to rest their legs.

The new metal benches were put in without taking notice of the opinion of The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood, who deserve to be listened to a bit more, after the committee's years of hard work rejuvenating the woodland and winning a grant to renew the playground.

If wooden benches are too easily vandalised, the Council should use benches with thick plastic slats, found elsewhere in London. The plastic is recycled, and maintenance-free, unlike metal. All the other recent changes to Cherry Tree Wood are very welcome, but could Barnet take the rest of the metal benches back? Who wants park benches that aren't comfortable?

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Brown

Member of Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

Letters to the editor

Well done, Phoenix

Dear Editor,

It made my day to read about the success of Paul Homer and his team in their bid for Heritage Lottery funding for the Phoenix. I'd like to thank them for all the commitment, time and energy that undoubtedly went into the bid, and for all the wonderful films and imaginative events they have put on in recent years. Like many in East Finchley, I will do what I can to help raise the remaining money so that the Phoenix can remain a much-loved local asset for many more decades to come.

**Yours faithfully,
Kathryn Scorza,
Address supplied.**

Daphne Chamberlain adds: *I absolutely agree with Kathryn, but what did other people think of the BBC London News feature on the Phoenix last month? While it was good to have the successful bid celebrated, I was disappointed by the report. To me, it gave the impression that our cinema was crumbling to bits around the ears of a few faithful souls.*

The camera lingered on a handful of people in the auditorium, while the presenter talked of "restoring past glories". If there was any mention of our cinema's exciting current programme of films and events, it passed me by. Not fair to the Phoenix!

Statues for the birds

Dear Editor,

Several readers have complained about the pigeon problem outside Budgens, and about people deliberately leaving food for them. One possible solution is (believe it or not) even more birds!

Robert, who works at the Lazy Sally Café in Cherry Tree Wood, has suggested placing realistic sculptures of birds of prey in the big tree by the traffic lights to scare off the pigeons. Many places, especially gardens, parks and country settlements, use these to deter unwanted birds from invading or nesting on their premises.

The main question is, what kind of birds prey on pigeons? I would be very interested to hear from anyone who knows, so this experiment could possibly go ahead. The sculptures might even be seen as a local installation in their own right.

**Yours faithfully,
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2.**

Shine a light

Dear Editor,

In response to your request for comments on the new street lighting, the new lighting in Church Vale is much better than the older sodium lighting. There is a street lamp adjacent to my garden and I was worried that the brighter light would cause a light overspill issue. I spoke to Haringey Council about my concerns and they fitted a cowl to the lamp. This cowl shields almost all of the light from my garden and I find it much less intrusive than the older sodium lighting.

I assume that the lights Haringey put up are the same as those that Barnet have used. If so, I would recommend your readers to request a cowl if light overspill is an issue for them.

**Yours faithfully,
Kevin Gallichan
Church Vale, N2.**

Parking pandemonium

Dear Editor,

I wanted to make you aware of the consequences of Barnet Council's inability to distribute valid parking permits to residents in the Controlled Parking Zone. I paid for my annual permit in April. I have repeatedly attempted to contact the council to get my permit posted to me. I still don't have one, four months later. However, I have now started to receive parking tickets, two in the last four days. The council have still not responded to any of my recent emails. It's appalling.

**Yours faithfully,
Gareth Jones
Name and address supplied**

Coffee morning takes the biscuit

By Sheila Armstrong

As locations for a coffee morning go, the building compound next to Holy Trinity School might take the biscuit. But the Apollo Group were perfect hosts for the event on their site next to the school in Eagans Close.

The coffee morning on 3 July raised funds for the North London Hospice and members of the hospice team were there, fresh from their training on the TV programme *Mary, Queen of Charity Shops*.

Apollo, which works with Barnet Homes, has improved its site and the whole of the area next to the school, putting bollards on

the roundabout to keep heavy vehicles off and screening the site with green fencing displaying colourful recycling posters designed by Holy Trinity children.

Headteacher Tim Bowden told The Archer that the school's relationship with Apollo was a positive one, very much a partnership. Holy Trinity were appreciative of the traffic calming measures Apollo had put in and for other support it gave the school.

Peter Blackburn, Apollo site manager, said he was keen to establish community links and told The Archer that Apollo had recently done well in the Considerate Constructors' Scheme.

On the day, the local Safer Neighbourhood Police were on hand with one of their vans entertaining children from Holy Trinity school, the main attraction being the siren and public address system.

Childhood favourites on show

An exhibition featuring children's stories with a local connection is on display at the Church Farmhouse Museum in Hendon. The Eye of Childhood exhibition, which runs until September 27, features famous children's authors and artists, past and present, who have lived or worked in the borough.

Authors such as Hendon-born Oliver Postgate, creator of *Bagpuss*, *Noggin the Nog* and *The Clangers*, Mill Hill-raised Anthony Buckeridge, writer of the Jennings stories and former Golders Green residents Sydney and Betty Hulme-Beaman, creators of the hit TV and radio *Towntown* series are featured.

Other authors and artists include Spike Milligan who wrote and illustrated *Silly Verse for Kids* along with many other children's books, and Glen Petrie, author of *Lucy and the Pirates*.

Katharine Holabird and Helen



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Keep fit for over 55s

By Daphne Chamberlain
Are you over 55, none too fit, but wish you were, and don't want to splash out on special keep fit clothes? Rather not enrol for an entire course right away? Then the class for you could be starting next month at the Ann Owens Centre.

This low impact exercise class is for the general public. Funded by Say Go, a lottery grant, and led by Lesley Chowen, it aims to get those slightly older and possibly injured bodies back into the benefits of exercise.

"We are very friendly," says Lesley, a dance teacher and former dancer well known in the area. "Each session will include 20 minutes of seated exercise. Just wear comfortable clothes and soft-soled shoes."

Lesley is an "Extend" trained teacher, who runs many low impact exercise classes, including mainly seated sessions at the Ann Owens Centre. Although open to outside visitors, these are attended mainly by the luncheon club.

This one, however, is more active, and relies wholly on outside participants. The weekly class begins on Wednesday 2 September, and runs between 2-3 pm. The charge per session is £2. Just turn up and pay as you go. The Ann Owens Centre is in Oak Lane, N2. For further information, call 020 8346 0542.

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