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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.

Letters to the editor

Wonderful workmen

Dear Editor,

I live on a local housing association estate which is currently being modernised and the thought of having all my windows and patio doors replaced within one day sounded quite a "challenging" experience.

Their team of workmen greatly impressed me as they were highly efficient, helpful and professional from the moment they arrived in my home until they left.

Yours faithfully, Name and address supplied.

Bird-brained legislators

Dear Editor,

Your correspondent Jake Eisen-Renyard (The Archer, August 2009) is mistaken in his assumption that replica birds of prey would cause the small flock of pigeons

outside Budgens to up sticks and move home.

Former London Mayor Ken Livingstone made the same error a few years back when he decided to pay 'hawkmen' £60,000 per annum to attack and chase away Trafalgar Square's historic flock using real birds of prey.

At the time, Livingstone described pigeons as "rats with wings, but stupid". Tourists were horrified to see pigeons ripped asunder by falcons, but the flock stayed put. Why? The answer is simple: they are homing birds.

Those who obsess over the supposed health hazard posed by 30 or so birds may have noticed the large volume of motor traffic passing by. Recent statistics show London has higher levels of deadly nitrogen dioxide emissions than any other European capital.

Am I alone in wondering whether pigeons are being scapegoated for problems our legislators will not solve, when they can fly away?

Yours faithfully, Steve Norman, Elmshurst Crescent, N2.



New-look Budgens

By Diana Cormack

On 17 October the Mayor of Barnet officially opened the refurbished Budgens store on Viceroy Parade. Councillor Brian Coleman was accompanied by his mother the Mayoress, a resident of East Finchley who lives "just up the road".

He congratulated owners Shalil Bhattessa and Yougesh Jegeswaran on their new look store which he hoped would encourage people to shop locally and bring more trade to the High Road.

The new layout has created more space for a greater range of stock, including improved bakery

and off licence areas. Over the years Budgens has become a contributor to the community, with the staff supporting a number of different charities and contributions being made to a variety of local causes.

Danger roads surround hospital

Dear Editor,

Re the redevelopment of Finchley Memorial Hospital (THE ARCHER, July 2009), I'm especially puzzled about the reference to a possible bus service to and from the new hospital, given the appalling chaos that presently exists in Bow Lane and Granville Road, which the NHS and the council have felt fit to ignore, to the shocking detriment of the residents.

Both roads will continue to be points of access to the new hospital and I wonder how on earth a bus will be able to manoeuvre through totally unsuitable roads in their present state.

I am the nearest resident to the existing hospital and every day is fraught with the horror of excessive moving traffic, parking on both sides of the roads, inevitable noise, congestion and danger.

Unless and until the NHS and council face up to the fact that drastic measures need to be taken about the state of both roads, I really cannot see how the redevelopment can be remotely successful. It is shameful that neither organisation will listen to the people who have everyday experience of the dangers present on both roads, or are they waiting for a fatality to happen?

Yours faithfully, Sally Underwood, Granville Road, N12.

Support for pavilion plans

Dear Editor,

I would like to inject some optimism into the discussions around the plans for the Cherry Tree Wood pavilion, particularly in response to letters by Summerlee Avenue residents in the October 2009 edition of THE ARCHER.

Sally-Ann Wigfield's vision for the space couldn't be further removed from McDonald's. On the contrary, her plan is to introduce an innovative cafe that promotes healthy eating, combined with a well-being space and a venue for nutrition education.

Families and school groups will be able to eat healthy food, learn about nutrition, grow some veggies, practise yoga and relax in the peaceful surroundings of the park.

As a local resident and environmental educator, I am very excited by Sally's plans, and I recently met with her to discuss ideas for a holistic education programme around healthy eating, healthy living and a healthy planet.

Yes, the character of the building will change somewhat, but at present it is an eyesore and a hazard, whereas these proposals offer a fantastic opportunity to bring it back to useful life. Charismatic features of the building, such as the front arches and the roof turret, will be retained, while new elements such as a sustainable green roof and well-being space will add value.

Surely the best way forward is not to look for problems, but to work together to find the best outcome for the community. I, for one, support Sally all the way.

Yours faithfully, Shayna Barby High Road, N2

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