

**Editor****Not too late to drop these parking charges**

Dear Editor,

For many of us owning a car is a necessity, and even those residents who are not car owners but on limited incomes still have to have a supply of visitors' vouchers for workmen, carers, district nurses, and family members checking that older relatives are OK.

Like many of my neighbours in East Finchley, I feel that Barnet's cabinet has not thought through the effect its proposed parking charge increases will have on what may possibly be a minority of residents, who feel that they are being made to subsidise the more affluent parts of the borough. It certainly annoys us when we are aware that the Department of Transport has indicated that there will be no reduction in the amounts it makes available to the various local authorities, and this would include Barnet, for upkeep of the roads. It infuriates us when, as reported in the Ham & High, Barnet has spent over £15,000 on voice coaching for council officials. If these skills are so important for the officials to carry out their jobs and presumably would have formed part of the job description, why couldn't Barnet have employed officials with these skills in the first place? To expend such a large amount seems like shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted.

I could expand on reasons why the parking fees should not be increased, but it would only be to reiterate arguments already put by other angry and fed-up residents. Many of us feel it is likely that such proposed increases are in fact unlawful as the appropriate consultation process has not been followed through. So, no wonder residents are annoyed at being faced with such increases being imposed on us when the council wastes money like this. It is not too late for the proposed parking fees to be revisited and reduced.

Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram,
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Source of local news

Dear Editor,

I have been asked by The Finchley Society to assure you of our admiration and delight in receiving *THE ARCHER*. It comes to our address at Avenue House and is relayed to the archives in the basement where it is eagerly read before reaching our members.

We are, of course, appreciative of its local and good news which, alas, in spite of approaches by David Smith, our chairman, is not very evident in the commercial so-called local papers. We are concerned that the team keeps going on this excellent source of local news.

Yours faithfully,
Barbara Warren,
Chair, Administrative Committee, The Finchley Society

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

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

No more NHS counselling

Dear Editor,

I recently received a letter from my medical practice informing me that from March 2011 until further notice there will be no NHS counselling service within general practice. According to the letter I received, all the patients from my practice have been informed that there will be an in-house private counselling service.

A 30-minute free consultation can be arranged as an introduction. If the patient accepts to have counselling, the cost will be £45 for 30 minutes and £80 for one hour. This is by appointment. Counselling can be beneficial and you may not need further treatment.

If you can't afford the cost of counselling, what is the alternative? Perhaps talk to your GP, who will not be able to afford the time? Without treatment, patients may even end up in an institution, costing the NHS even more money in the long run. Is this the beginning of the end of the NHS?

Yours faithfully,
Gisele Mack,
Summerlee Avenue, N2

The life and times of Peter Bayley

By Sheila Armstrong

The recently retired Phoenix projectionist Peter Bayley is in the news again as a short film has been made about his life by local filmmakers Victor Martinez and Madeleine Pearce. It is hoped that it will be screened in the future at the Phoenix and will definitely be on the cinema's website.

This film about Peter does not just include his time at the Phoenix but, director Victor Martinez told *THE ARCHER*, is a personal documentary about his whole life. It is financed



Peter Bayley takes his seat at the Phoenix. Photo by Victor Martinez

by Victor and Madeleine, both of whom work in TV and were inspired to make the film having met Peter recently.

THE ARCHER managed to catch up with Peter on the 143 bus in late February shortly after filming was finished. He said he was looking forward to seeing the whole film when it was finished. When asked if he missed the Phoenix he said, "Funnily enough I don't". Obviously he is having a busy and happy retirement.

Phoenix at the Olympics

Many of you may have twigged already but our story about the Phoenix Cinema on page 4 is our belated April Fool.

Unfortunately, there'll be no moulding work and the cinema won't be making an appearance in the Olympic park. Although, come to think about it, it's not such a bad idea...

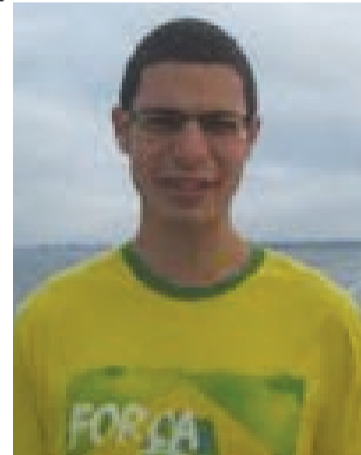
Double challenge for charity fundraiser

By Laura Wheadon

It's a case of the road twice travelled for fundraiser Ben Charkham, as he prepares to undertake two sponsored challenges to raise money for the North London Hospice.

On Sunday 8 May, Ben will take part in his fourth annual Jetstream Triathlon at Hatch End, Pinner. This gruelling challenge involves a 400m swim and a 17km cycle, rounded off with a 3km run. Then on Sunday 10 July, Ben will take part in the British 10k London Run around Central London. Ben enjoys the atmosphere when running with thousands of other fundraisers and especially relishes the challenge of raising lots of money for a local charity.

North London Hospice provides specialist care and advice on the relief of symptoms, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. As well as a 17-bed inpatient unit and day centre, the multi-disciplinary team offer practical care and symptom control at home. Support is extended to families, friends and



Ben Charkham is ready for a double challenge.

carers. North London Hospice is a registered charity, and all services are provided free of charge.

If you'd like to sponsor Ben and help raise money for North London Hospice, you can do so at www.justgiving.com/Ben-Charkham. Good luck, Ben!



By Adam Justice-Mills

We had a bicycle stolen from outside the house (not the first time). Locked-up but too tempting. Bike locks are just deterrents: the only safe bikes are ugly bikes and hidden bikes (the more bits you leave on it, the less chance you'll get it back).

Then a friend said they were looking for a second-hand bike and it got me thinking. Cycling is part of our family life: commuting, fun in the park, popping round to friends, shopping, touring and on holiday. I've taught cycling, from beginners to would-be commuters. What stops people cycling more?

Tips and training

Weather, traffic, hills and practicalities, perhaps. My least favourite weather is freezing fog, though drizzle at dusk is a close second (I wear glasses). Happiest purchases are waterproof socks and CatsEye LED lights.

London traffic can be terrifying, so knowing how to cycle with confidence on real roads is a must. Cycling your prospective commuting route with an instructor, identifying easy paths and danger points, will really help. Hills

are always ahead, but good gears (and knowing how to use them) will make them pass eventually. Practicalities, like "where to shower", "how to carry shopping safely" and "how the whole family can go on bikes" are worth discussing with other cyclists. We're a friendly bunch on the whole and there's plenty online as well.

Haringey subsidises cycling training for people over 12 through their "Cycle With Confidence" scheme for children in Haringey education or anyone who lives or works in Haringey. TfL subsidises cycle training for everyone in Greater London, including free cycle-route maps, tube and bike options and advice on cycling safety and security. Sustainable transport charity Sustrans has cycle route maps across the UK.

Re-cycling anyone?

As we've grown up (or the bikes have become un-trendy), we've sometimes had more bikes than people. Most old bikes get dumped, but bikes are easy to maintain, cheap to keep on the road and fun to decorate: why not pass them on, even if they're beaten up? They make a great fix-up project for a would-be young cyclist.

AP Exclusive in the UK to:
Gentlemen's Barbers
CRAZY BULL Hair Products
"You deserve the right to have beautiful & stylish hair every day"
50 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PJ
t: 0203 441 8048

Klages Plumbing & Heating Agency LTD.
CONTACT TELEPHONE No: 020 8346 7218 / 8636
KLAGE
A NAME IN PLUMBING FOR OVER 40 YEARS

eastfinchleyclinic
Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk
East Finchley Clinic
2-3 Bedford Mews
Bedford Road
London N2 9DF
020 8883 5888
FAX: 020 8444 8874