



Letters

Does allotment victory bode well for parking battle?

Dear Editor,

I wonder how many of your readers noted the irony and similarity between your July issue front-page story of the success of the Barnet Allotment holders in resisting Barnet Council in the rent increase of their allotments and the fight between Barnet CPZ Action and the council?

In both instances one of the grounds for challenging the council was the irregularity in the way in which it had imposed its increases as well as the huge hike in the amount. Well done to the allotment holders in being successful in their campaign. I hope it bodes well for us in our campaign against the council over its immoral increase in parking charges.

I have no doubt that as it's not their own personal money which is involved, the councillors and/or council officials who are conducting the council's defence against the CPZ Action have sought the most expensive legal advice they could find, irrespective of whether they could have instructed someone of equal calibre to the counsel they have chosen but whose fee would have been more realistic.

**Yours faithfully,
Joyce Arram,
Summerlee Gardens, N2.**

Community kitchen garden

Dear Editor,

Is there a small space left in THE ARCHER to mention a community kitchen garden I have started at Vale Farm Allotment? We've recently started a blog, www.valefarmproject.co.uk/author/valefarm, and I'm looking for volunteers to look after the garden.

The Horticultural Specialist from Tree House School in Muswell Hill will be visiting soon as I would like this food-growing space to be used for vocational training for their pupils.

If there is an overabundance of produce, we'll make 'chutney for charity', which is what I did when I ran the Charity Café in High Barnet for the summer of 2009 on the weekends, or we can box it up and sell lovely fresh, and locally grown produce to local residents, with the proceeds being reinvested back into Vale Farm to keep it sustainable. Anyone who would like to get involved can contact salgakelly@ooglegmail.com.

**Yours faithfully,
Sally-Anne Wigfield,
Address supplied.**

Janes & Adams

Dear Editor,

In response to your photo of the old Janes & Adams store, (The Archer, June 2011) I remember when staying with my grandparents in Leslie Road in the mid-1930s taking to Janes and Adams an accumulator to be charged to operate the wireless as there was no electricity, only gas lights. For a bath, the copper was lit and the hot water baled into the bath, also situated in the kitchen.

Other shops near Janes & Adams were Rances the baker, a grocer and Glovers: a men's outfitters with a hair-dresser at the back of the shop.

**Yours faithfully,
Len Morley,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.**



KFC reveals its secret

Next in our occasional series of old shop fronts exposed, following on from our photo of Janes and Adams in June's issue, is Creasy the greengrocers, who traded on the corner of the High Road and Huntingdon Road until the arrival of KFC in 1973. The shop front was revealed during the recent refurbishment of the food takeaway chain. Thanks to Margaret Cartwright for alerting us and to Hugh Petrie for his photo.

If you have memories of shopping at Creasy's, please write to us at the-archer@lineone.net or THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.



Westminster Morris Men at The Five Bells. Picture by John Dearing

Morris men tour N2

By John Dearing

The Westminster Morris Men conducted their third annual tour of East Finchley, visiting The Windsor Castle, The Five Bells and The Old White Lion on 25 May. They were blessed with fine weather and a good turnout of spectators. To watch a video of them dancing outside The Windsor Castle, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XvSzfTdC0I

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How to be part of the Olympics

By John Fuller, Herts 2012 Ambassador

As part of the delivery of the Olympics and Paralympics in 2012 the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) will be recruiting 70,000 volunteers and Boris Johnson will be seeking 8,000 London Ambassadors to welcome the arriving overseas visitors.

Many people will not want to be a volunteer but still want to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event. So have you thought of offering that spare room or rooms to an overseas guest?

The packages on offer to domestic and overseas visitors during the Games can be very expensive. Clearly many thousands will be willing to pay the high prices, but what of those who perhaps have a friend or family member competing in the Games but do not have the funds to pay?

Legacy of friendship

In Hertfordshire where I manage the Herts 2012 Team the idea arose of hosting both team members and family and friends, not as a money earner but as a unique opportunity to be a part of the Games celebration and to create, potentially, lifetime friendships.

I have hosted in my Finchley home three members of National Olympic Committees

(St Lucia, British Virgin Islands and St Kitts and Nevis). Now we are compiling a list of those willing to offer hosting.

We have for example a school looking to offer, through their families, accommodation for young athletes from St Lucia who will use our training facilities before they go to the Youth Commonwealth Games in the Isle of Man this September.

We have no idea how this idea will develop but we know it can work and it offers great potential for international friendship. This could be a real legacy and as the teams we are hosting are all from the Commonwealth the prospect of further visits for Glasgow 2014 is another possibility.

So, worth thinking about? Look at our website www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk for the latest information and send your e-mail address to john.fuller@hertscc.gov.uk to receive our free monthly newsletter.

A big thank you from Age UK

Age UK tells us that in the last few months Barnet residents have raised almost £10,000 for the charity by coming to a quiz night; donating green tokens at Waitrose, Brent Cross and Temple Fortune; buying Sue Chapman's beautiful handmade pin cushions; and supporting a "pop-up" restaurant event, attended by Judith Miller from the BBC's Antiques Roadshow.

Pin cushions

Sue Chapman, 90, has raised almost £2,000 by hand making and embroidering beautiful pin cushions. Sue makes them to order, so if you want one made for a special occasion just let us know. Pin cushions cost £10 each and all money goes to Age UK Barnet. To purchase any, contact Loraine Simmons on 020 8150 0962 or email loraine.simmons@ageukbarnet.org.uk.

Unwanted items

Age UK is collecting unwanted mobile phones, gold/silver or costume jewellery (including odd or broken items), watches, and old UK and foreign notes and coins to raise money for its work in the borough. Items can be brought in to either the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, or the Meritage Centre in Hendon. Alternatively, contact Lisa Dubow on 020 8432 1417 or email lisa.dubow@ageukbarnet.org.uk

Get knitting

Could you knit tiny bobble hats for Innocent smoothie bottles going on sale in Sainsbury's and Boots stores in the run-up to Christmas? Age UK would love you to join its team of knitters, who raised over £500 last year. For copies of patterns please contact Loraine Simmons on 020 8150 0962 or email loraine.simmons@ageukbarnet.org.uk. Patterns can also be downloaded from www.innocentdrinks.co.uk/thebigknit. The closing date for getting hats in is 30 September 2011.

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