



Letters to the Editor

Beware scooters on the school run

Dear Editor,

This is one of those letters that I wish I wasn't having to write. One morning recently while taking my son to school along Church Lane I observed two young children scooting down the pavement on the opposite side of the road. At The Walks the young girl's scooter, as she dismounted, ran away into the road and she ran after it. I immediately instructed her back onto the pavement with the promise that I would capture the wayward scooter for her and she complied with my instruction. Where were her parents when this happened? Way back up the road.

Then today I witnessed an accident on Church Lane at the same junction that could very easily have been the death of a child. I crossed in front of a stream of traffic being led by a Nissan Micra. There was ample time as the driver wasn't rushing as too many drivers do down Church Lane.

I was barely 10 yards up The Walks towards the Windsor Castle pub when I heard the sound of a car stopping suddenly and a thud. Turning, it was immediately obvious that the car had struck something. It was a child who, riding a scooter like the one the previous day, had rolled into the road and the oncoming traffic. He was wearing a hood and clearly had no chance of knowing what was going on around him.

Only the fast reactions of the young lady driver and her sensible speed for the road conditions prevented this from being a death. If I had been driving, given my age and slower reactions, it probably would have been a death. Where were his parents? Again, a distance behind and left in the dust by the scooter. I think there is a need for a road safety campaign at the local schools highlighting the dangers of these scooters. The ones with two wheels at the front can really fly. It's clear to me that a lot of parents are not fully aware of the dangers they are allowing their children to face when they are let loose on them. I'm also very concerned about how far back some parents are from their children on the way to school: always a recipe for accidents.

Yours faithfully,
Martin Addison,
Long Lane, N2.

Parking charges: who will suffer next?

Dear Editor

In April, Barnet Council increased the charges for residents in the borough's Controlled Parking Zones to levels that are higher than in any comparable London borough. The cost of visitor parking in particular at £4 is unprecedented. Residents in neighbouring Haringey streets pay 60p.

Barnet claim that they are entitled to raise extra money from residents' parking because they want more money to spend on road maintenance across the borough. Barnet is alone among councils in arguing that this is lawful.

It was until now generally recognised that the relevant legislation and High Court judgments meant that parking charges must be based on local parking needs and not on the desire to fund other projects. It is for this reason that no other council has tried to set suburban parking charges at such absurd levels.

Barnet's actions are being challenged in the High Court. The outcome concerns everyone in the borough. If Barnet Council believe that it can disregard accepted standards as to what is permissible and that they have an unrestricted ability to increase charges, then who will suffer next?

We are seeking to overturn these unfair charges at court but can only succeed in our legal action if we are able to fund it. If readers of this letter believe that Barnet Council needs to be held to account for its unprecedented actions, please donate what you can online at www.barnetcpz.blogspot.com or send a cheque payable to "Barnet CPZ Action" to 88 Summerlee Avenue, London, N2 9QH.

Yours faithfully,
David Attfield, Diane Johnson, Chris Price, Ife Fatunase, Peter Cox and Gerald Berman,
Barnet CPZ Action.

Please sponsor my run for the Bobath Centre

Dear Editor,

I am an East Finchley resident and I am running the Asics British 10k London Run to raise money and awareness for the Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. The Run takes place on Sunday 10 July at 9.35am. Every week I run past the Bobath Centre on East End Road, so I felt that this was a fitting way for me to help the centre. The team there relies upon voluntary income to fund their work and this type of event is the perfect way to raise money and awareness for the cause.

The Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy is a small national charity which provides specialist therapy for children with cerebral palsy. The centre treats on average 300 children each year, and through its unique combination of physical, occupational, and speech and language therapy, aims to give children an improved quality of life that will help them to be healthy and active, and participate in everyday life to the best of their ability. If any of your readers would like to sponsor me and raise money for this wonderful charity then please visit my justgiving.com page at www.justgiving.com/lan-hosler. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your

details are safe with JustGiving and they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity and make sure Gift Aid is reclaimed on every eligible donation by a UK taxpayer. So please dig deep and donate now.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Hosler, Address supplied

N2 number plate for sale

Dear Editor,

I wonder if readers may be interested in acquiring a very special East Finchley N2 number plate for their car. Some years ago I purchased this for my wife for a special birthday, but having been too easily spotted out shopping, whilst supposedly at the gym, she has decided it is time for it to go and has not transferred this special number plate to her new car.

I was actually stopped a couple of years ago in East Finchley High Road outside Budgens and asked if I was interested in selling it so, if that person reads THE ARCHER, please contact me. If not, as N2 TNA is now looking for a new home, are there any other East Finchley N2 residents who may be interested in acquiring it?

We have it on a retention certificate so it is easily transferable. I am looking for offers in excess of £650 (to cover the original costs and the cost of the retention certificate). Please email me if you are interested and I will get straight back to you.

Yours faithfully,
Jeff Stanton
jeffstanton@talktalk.net

Happy days on Stanley Field

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read that Stanley Road Field could be saved as a sporting venue and congratulate all those who are fighting to save it. Once a week 60 years ago the boys in my class at The Alder School walked there to play football. There were no facilities and the ground was often muddy but we loved it. Refereed by our teacher, we displayed little skill but there was plenty of enthusiasm. This reminder prompted me to wonder who Stanley was and which came first, the road or the field?

Yours faithfully,
Tony McTeare,
Address supplied

Henry Van Emden: a true entertainer

By Daphne Chamberlain

Henry Van Emden, whose death we reported in May, was a supreme entertainer. I shall never forget my first meeting with him, when he finished our interview by playing *Rhapsody in Blue*. Henry and his keyboard enlivened many local events, but he had also played on bigger stages.



in America, and actually tried his luck with some success in New York. But, in his own words, fate stepped in when he met his wife Katy at a dance in Stoke Newington.

He stayed on this side of the Atlantic, but accompanied stars such as Tommy Cooper, Adelaide Hall, Matt Munroe, Rosemary Squires, Marlene Ver Planc and Julie Dawn. His band performed before Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher.

Henry's companion Paula Sanders remembers his last big gig playing the piano for the 100th anniversary of the C.A.A. (Club for Acts, Actors and Actresses). She describes it as a wonderful night, when he "brought the house down".

Paula and Henry met in 1989 shortly after both their marriage partners had died. She says, "We both knew the awful pain of bereavement, but eventually we built a great life together. I spent many, many happy hours with Henry's music, and needless to say, I miss him dreadfully."

Serving in World War Two, he formed a four-piece rhythm section, which he realised with no false modesty was "too good for the NAAFI". So he requested, and got, a weekly live slot on the American Forces radio station, called "Van Emden and his Music". Soon he was leading a band drawn from across the army.

A Normandy veteran, he played for years on a clarinet he had found discarded in mud after a battle. After the war, he had dreams of a musical career

World cricket star in Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

Those of us who dropped by Finchley Cricket Club one drizzly day last month found ourselves roped in as extras for a TV commercial. If we all looked genuinely excited it was because we were standing within touching distance of the world's most successful spin bowler.

Muttiah Muralitharan, the smiling Sri Lankan whose 800 test wickets surpass Australian Shane Warne's total, was demonstrating his skill against a set of stumps, a coin and a glass. Keeping him company was England's Graham Swann. So cricket lovers will guess there were plenty of jokes mixed with the technique.



Catch the end result on YouTube (the commercial was for Rubicon exotic fruit juice).

Finchley Cricket Club is in East End Road, N3, just over the North Circular "Peace Gardens" bridge, and it welcomes

men, women, and boys and girls from the age of six. For more information, call 020 8346 1822.

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