



Letters



Traffic squeeze on Creighton Avenue

Dear Editor,

A couple of months ago you featured an article about cars being parked at the top of Creighton Avenue and you asked for pictures. I reside in the road and, though not often, I do see cars park right at the top, which causes congestion. It's very tight when you drive past especially when there is oncoming traffic.

I have taken a picture and as you can see it was hard for our car to get past. We definitely need double yellow lines there.

Yours faithfully,
Miranda Telemachou,
Creighton Avenue, N2.

A smoother ride

Dear Editor,

I would like to refer to the schedule of bus 143 from Archway Station to Brent Cross everyday at around 4pm-6pm. I have experienced a few times when the bus was full, not stopping at every stop, not picking up passengers. I also noticed there was NO announcement on the bus asking passengers to move inside the bus. There were also times when one or two buses skipped the schedule. Please can the bus company take note of these and make adjustment for the public.

Regarding the bus stop at Finchley Central. There is a notice lightbox installed but it is never in use. Please can the bus company do something about it and print the bus arrivals on the screen. This is a very busy stop and usually there are crowds of passengers. Also please would the bus company check the roof of this stop to make sure no water leaks during rainy days.

Yours faithfully,
Lily Joseph,
Address supplied.

What's happened to Ricky Savage?

Dear Editor,

I wonder if I am the only reader that has noticed a gradual but significant change in one of THE ARCHER's regular columns. I can recall when the so-called Kalashnikov Kultur was an amusing, deliberately non-PC column with a few original and quite well-observed stabs at the general consensus.

As an occasional rant that was not over-concerned with being taken seriously, it made light but entertaining reading. It had, in fact, a little (but not all that much) of the flavour of the early Private Eye but without that magazine's underlying political earnestness or, it has to be said, its brilliance. KK has gradually changed in tone, outlook, and content. It no

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longer bothers about being light-heartedly nonconformist but has a vaguely unpleasant feel of wanting to be "satirical" and "on-message". It strikes a different pose but strives, unsuccessfully, I think, to maintain the original deliberately bantering and gauche style.

The example in last month's ARCHER illustrates this well. There the style is still awkward and amateurish but one senses that its aim is now to ape the TV stand-up comedians that make one cringe with embarrassment as they indulge in the very crudest of jokey material.

Poor Ricky Savage seems to find himself between two stools. One senses that he desperately wants to be one of the 'Fringe Folk' but is constrained by the family-friendly flavour of THE ARCHER and must perforce cloak his newly political ramblings in a pseudo-nursery-surreal style. I don't think it comes off.

Perhaps the column is now being written by a different Ricky Savage who wants desperately to live up to the name. Whatever the reason, I feel it is a pity. One used to enjoy glancing through Kalashnikov Kultur, but its new intensity and overtly political content I find off-putting and slightly repellent.

Yours faithfully,
Stuart Rising,
Durham Road, N2.

Memories of Janes and Adams

Dear Editor,

I recently saw a copy of THE ARCHER (October, 2011) which included an article and picture relating to Janes & Adams Ltd at East Finchley. My father "Bert" Broadbridge worked there as a shop assistant before the second world war. He was called up and served five years in the army in India.

When he returned home in 1945 he went back to the same shop and was able to rent the company flat above the shop. He was then promoted to manager. Shortly after, Janes & Adams moved their head office from a house in Long Lane to High Road in Whetstone and my father rented the house. He was then made manager of the larger shop in North Finchley. I became involved with the company shortly after I completed my National Service in the RAF. They invited me to join their finance company in the Whetstone office. That is where I met my wife Joyce, who worked for their rental company. Next year will be our 50th wedding anniversary. My father was taken home from the North Finchley shop in 1968 and died shortly after with a heart attack. Percy Adams, the boss, and all the managers attended his funeral in East Finchley. By this time my wife and I had already left the company, but my mother continued in the company house.

Yours faithfully,
David Broadbridge,
Address supplied.

Singing for the over-55s

By Diana Cormack

If you enjoy singing but don't particularly want to perform, Voices with Gusto could be the group for you. Run by Barnet's Community Focus, it meets on Wednesdays between 1-3pm in East Finchley Baptist Church, Creighton Avenue. The meetings began in October and continue to 7 December.

Don't worry about being too late to join. You'll probably know most of the songs anyway and they're sung in an informal environment. "From Gershwin to Gaga and everything in between" is how it was advertised. In fact, that's what caught my eye on the notice board in East Finchley library the day before it started. The following afternoon, after some warm up exercises, we sang Bridge Over Troubled Water, California Dreaming and Just The Way You Look Tonight, during which I reached notes I used to chicken out of.

This was all down to our young instructor Dominic O'Hanlon who accompanies us on the piano. He's an able teacher who can, in a friendly and relaxed manner, give you the skills as well as the confidence you might need. And nobody minds if you go wrong!

The first session cost £10, which included a joining fee, and then it is £5 per session. For more information or to book your place phone Lili Barcroft on 020 8369 5483 or email lili.barcroft@communityfocus.co.uk or just turn up on the day.

Hospital art

Staff, friends and members of the local community in Finchley are being invited to contribute to the Community Arts Programme at the new Finchley Memorial Hospital, which is due to open in late 2012.

Organisers say they want to harness local artistic talents to help create a vibrant local hospital for the community. Contributions are sought for a digital art gallery of artworks to be displayed via large screens or projectors in the main waiting areas of the hospital.

Digital submissions are invited in any medium, for example painted, drawn, printed or photographic, and can include written words such as calligraphy or short poems. Submissions should be Tiff or Jpeg format and include contact details and a brief written description of the piece including materials used. Send your submissions to engagement@nclondon.nhs.uk by the closing date, 31 January 2012.

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