



Letters to the editor...

A library in your own home

Dear Editor,

I read in *THE ARCHER* about Barnet Borough Talking Newspaper. I wonder if your readers know of another service the borough provides for the handicapped?

This is the Barnet Borough Home and Mobile Library Service. If you are handicapped and unable to visit your library, every four weeks a librarian will come to your home to bring 12 books from a list of topics, authors and titles you provide.

I cannot praise the team highly enough for their pleasant and efficient service and their choice of books. If you are interested in joining, contact Richard Lynch on 020 8359 3901. It is a pleasure to applaud our council in view of all the brickbats they receive.

Yours faithfully,
Mary Atkinson,
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Hard-luck stories

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article in the June issue of *THE ARCHER* about the fake Samaritan, my husband and I were stopped by a man in The Causeway at the entrance of East Finchley Station about 18 months ago with a hard-luck story of having his wallet and mobile phone stolen and needing money to get back to Southgate. A few weeks ago, the same man was in the same place with another hard-luck story to tell.

Yours faithfully,
June Randall,
Edmunds Walk, N2.

Stand up to rogue landlords

Dear Editor,

Following the appearance in *THE ARCHER* (April 2013) of my Soapbox article on rogue landlords in Barnet, I am pleased to report that I have received a visit from the local councillor who was interested in this matter.

To my surprise it was not necessary for me to reveal to him the identity of my landlord. The councillor did this himself and I had only to refrain from disagreeing with him.

Clearly the individual concerned has a fairly contemptible reputation among both tenants and local councillors, yet our community is obliged to put up with his activities.

If any readers are private-sector tenants who have serious problems with a so-called 'respectable' organisation on the high street, please do not hesitate to register your complaint with one of your councillors. You will probably not need to name your landlord, who is likely to be known already, nor will your identity be revealed.

Many thanks to *THE ARCHER* for their help in this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Mathewson,
Park Hall Road, N2

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Library volunteers celebrate

By Daphne Chamberlain

On a wall inside the former Friern Barnet Public Library someone has displayed a quotation: "The public library is where place and possibility meet". The building is now an official Community Library, leased by Barnet for two years to the local group who fought to save a library service for their community. Council Leader Richard Cornelius attended an open evening there last month, when the community group members were talking about their hopes of developing the service.

They have plenty of stock. People are donating generously, and Barnet Council is returning some of the former stock which had been taken away for the failed "replacement" library in the artsdepot. The Council has also promised software for catalogues and reservations. Story sessions, book clubs and activities like yoga sessions are already running, and a community planning day was

scheduled for just after the open evening.

The Friern Barnet community, including local shops and trades people, are absolutely dedicated to making the possibility of a restored library an established fact. They have the support of everyone in East Finchley who signed the petitions to re-open the library, and everyone here who wishes them well.



Council Leader Richard Cornelius visits Friern Barnet Community Library Open Evening. Photo by Lucy Nowell

Etta Cowan, 1931 – 2013, a beautiful and spirited woman

By Michael Gentry

Etta Cowan, a well-known and popular local lady, died on 15 June from an unexpected illness that came suddenly on a day when she had been out and about as usual along the High Road with her little dog Honey.

Etta was on the variety stage in Edinburgh dancing in the chorus line at the age of 16, when she was known as 'The Pocket Venus'. Later, Etta did exhibition dancing, singing and cabaret work with a cousin on the keyboards.

Married life found her in Harrogate where she opened two successful fashion and couture shops known as Sanmare after the names of her three children.

After moving to East Finchley in the 1970s Etta sought a new direction, eventually becoming a very highly regarded artist's model. She worked for many art colleges in Barnet, Stanmore and Harrow. Etta was the first ever and probably the only nude female life model at Harrow Public School

To her last days Etta was spoken of as "the best



Etta Cowan pictured on the High Road. Photo courtesy Michael Gentry dressed woman in East Finchley" and was usually accompanied by Honey ("Mummy's wee girl"). Etta was a personality and character whose lively chatter and humour will be sadly missed along the High Road. Honey will be cared for by Etta's companion of many years, Daddy Mycoll.



Portrait photographer Lynn Herrick

Portrait of a lady

By Sheila Armstrong

Chicago-born but living here for 19 years, photographer Lynn Herrick recently welcomed *THE ARCHER* to her new East Finchley studio. Using a digital SLR camera and many skills learnt over the years taking portraits of the rich, not so rich, famous and completely unknown, she has been taking pictures for quite a while.

Originally with a degree in art and photography, Lynn started out teaching early years children but now has a full time career in photography. Not surprisingly her shots of children really capture their individuality and she has the knack of getting children to relax.

Her own company Headshots specialises in shots of actors and other performers for Spotlight and other acting agencies (headshotslondon.co.uk). Much of her work nowadays comes from individuals want-

ing to establish a presence on the web, for example photos for personal websites, online dating sites, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

And if you hate any photo of yourself Lynn has posing tips, advice on clothes, and takes quite a lot of shots in the more informal setting of her garden. There are also many digital effects that can be added to the finished pictures.

Her work can be seen at www.herrickphoto.co.uk and she can be contacted at lynnherrick@gmail.com.

The Finchley Charities



Welfare Administration Assistant Required for a 6 - 9 month temporary contract with the potential to become permanent

**Reporting to the Welfare & Sheltered Housing Manager
30 hours per week, Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm
Salary £15,600 p.a., reviewed annually**

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an additional Welfare Administration Assistant to work closely with the Welfare & Sheltered Housing Manager at a local Almshouse charity based in Finchley N2. We deliver a high quality Sheltered Housing service to London Borough of Barnet residents that have a housing need.

Our aim is to provide secure and comfortable accommodation in pleasant surroundings which enable residents to live independently.

Candidates should possess good people skills, be computer literate, have previous administration experience and be able to handle resident/ applicant issues sensitively.

For further information and an application pack, please call 020 8346 9464 or email amanda.peters@thefinchleycharities.org.

Closing date 9th August 2013