



Letters

Fortismere places policy

Dear Editor,

I attended the Fortismere consultation on their musical ability school places policy on 14 January (thanks to THE ARCHER for publishing the details). This policy currently gives places for up to 24 children (plus their siblings) each year from outside the area.

This has effectively substantially reduced the number of places offered by distance: in 2009 there were 132 offers by distance compared to 108 in 2012. It also creates a kind of social selection as benefiting the children of those who can afford private music lessons.

Anyone concerned about this can email nmoore@fortismere.org.uk by Friday 15 February and a form for this is available on the Fortismere website at www.fortismere.haringey.sch.uk/page/default.asp?title=Home&pid=1

Yours faithfully,  
Paul McLean-Thorne,  
Lincoln Road, N2.

Daphne Bauer, 1925–2012

Many readers of this newspaper will remember Daphne Bauer, a resident in Church Lane, N2, from 1980 to 1995. Daphne Bauer, nee Hall, and later Mills, was born in South Wales, of Irish parents, and was proud of her Irish heritage throughout her adventurous life.

Daphne grew up in Kensington and later went on to complete a degree in sociology at the London School of Economics. In the austerity of late 1940s' Britain, she took the opportunity of a post as a research assistant in a sociological survey in rural Jamaica, where she stayed for two years and learned to understand the local dialect. After a year or so back in Britain, Daphne went abroad again, this time to Toronto, Canada, where her brother George had already moved. She married there in 1952 and had two sons, Peter and David.

In the late 1950s, the family moved back to Britain and Daphne embarked on a career as a social worker, first with the London County Council as a school care committee organiser in Islington and later for the London Borough of Camden.



An extremely dedicated social worker assigned to what in the 1960s were known as 'problem families', colleagues said of her that "Daphne never lost a baby".

While a resident in East Finchley for 15 years, Daphne took an active interest in local issues. She was a founding member of the East Finchley Village Society and was involved in the controversy over the widening of the North Circular Road. She was also a director of the Phoenix Cinema Trust and enjoyed art classes at the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, as well as a spot of gardening.

Daphne moved to Bexhill in 1995 and until the end of her life kept up close friendships and contact with the community in East Finchley, visiting regularly and maintaining a keen interest in N2 issues. She was always a delighted recipient of THE ARCHER. Daphne will be remembered by many in N2 for her warmth, intelligence and keen sense of humour.

Carpet shop rolls out new look

Few East Finchley firms can boast a longer history than S & M Myers Carpet Showroom. First established in 1819 to supply local factories with rags for cleaning their machines, the business moved into government surplus before concentrating on carpet sales from the 1970s onwards.

Still in the family, the firm is run by brothers Richard and Alan Myers, along with Naveed Iqbal. As it approaches its 200th anniversary, it has totally refitted its showroom on East End Road, creating a bright and spacious new shop for customers and a much larger warehouse for holding stock.

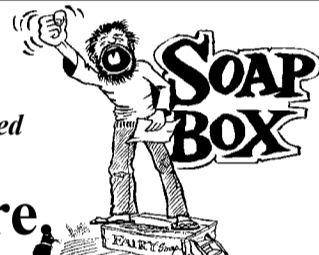
The transformation took 16 months in all but Myers is now firmly back in business. Richard said: "It's nice to be back. We've got plenty of carpets in stock, and the same wide range and good service we've always had. And our prices haven't gone up."



Magic carpets: from left, Naveed Iqbal, Alan and Richard Myers in their new showroom. Photo by John Lawrence

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Drivers, beware. Runners, be aware-r!

By Victoria Davenport

This time of the year, more runners are on the roads, what with New Year's resolutions and training for the upcoming London and other marathons. A friend was hit by a car driving out of a petrol station. She was running fast, didn't see the car, and the driver didn't see her. Six weeks in hospital, a metal rod in her leg, one year later with endless physio and retraining and she is (very slowly) working towards a bit of light jogging. She was a near-elite athlete aiming for the British athletics team and her career is over.

Drive, cycle, run...with care

Runners know the risks of wearing earphones when they're outside running, but everyone seems to do it. We're told to watch out for cars, but no one does. Even the most well-intentioned, careful driver might not see you, not be looking at all, or think "I can turn that corner before that runner, easy." Always, always, they'll assume they can get there faster than you

Running's like driving. Be alert, be careful and watchful, and don't assume anyone will stop for you. This applies to cyclists as well (one actually killed a pedestrian on Parliament Hill).

Drivers: don't assume you can move faster than that runner. Be courteous if you can: the runner is probably exhausted, fed up and just wants to keep moving. They could be distracted and not looking around them or not hear you, especially with their earphones in. Don't assume they see you or will stop.

Runners: be cautious and, especially when running in traffic, assume that drivers aren't going to see you or think you are at risk. Ditto cyclists; they're the runner's friends and equal in many ways, but they too are moving fast and can be dangerous.

Visibility

The obvious stuff about clothing applies too but I still see runners out at night wearing dark clothing (and I'm guilty too). It's not just the cars that are a problem; you could easily plough right into another runner, and that hurts! White is better than orange. Get used to wearing it in daylight too. Everyone needs to be aware of you, including dog-walkers, people with baby buggies and so on.

In turn, runners need to be courteous to pedestrians. Some runners are irritating and obnoxious when they plough ahead forcing pedestrians to the side so they can keep up the pace. I remember being told when I was learning to drive, 'Courtesy is contagious', and it's still good advice for runners, drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

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