



Letters

Walksafe N2 update

Dear Editor,

We are delighted to announce that the road safety proposals agreed by the Council have passed the public consultation stage and installation is due to begin shortly.

We can look forward to: 1) a zebra crossing on Creighton Avenue; 2) a 20mph speed limit on Church Lane with two Vehicle Activated Signs (which will also record the speed of all vehicles); 3) a pedestrian refuge on Church Lane at the junction with East End Road.

This achievement is due to the high degree of public support and the previous work done by EFVRA and parents/governors at Martin School.

Thank you to all those who took time to obtain signatures on the petition, write letters of support, talk to other residents, email the council, attend site visits, press events and council meetings. Thank you also for the support given by our local councillors and THE ARCHER.

The outstanding objective of a three-way traffic light on the High Road at the junction with Church Lane will have to wait till another day. However, we would be grateful if everyone could continue to make a record of dangerous incidents. We will keep the walksafen2@yahoo.

com email address open for this and for feedback on the effects of the upcoming improvements.

**Yours faithfully,
Walksafe N2 Steering Committee.**

Brief encounter

Dear Editor,

Would the kind lady who stopped at the corner shop to speak to me after reading of my 100th birthday in THE ARCHER, please ring me. I had unaccountably run off.

**Yours faithfully,
Regina Allen,
Ossulton Way, N2.**

Was this you? Contact us and we'll put you in touch with Regina. Our contact details are on page 2.

Age ambassadors

Dear Editor,

I work for Independent Age, a charity which supports thousands of older people across the UK and Republic of Ireland. We tackle older people's poverty and loneliness by offering information, advice and friendship. For those who need it, we also offer befriending and support from an Independent Age volunteer.

We support around 6,000 people in the UK and Ireland and are particularly keen for new volunteers to

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the-archer@lineone.net. Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, on request at publication.

help to raise our profile, attract new volunteers to the charity and manage an existing team of volunteers in East Finchley.

If you like getting out and about and meeting new people and think you have what it takes to help recruit, support and motivate our volunteers, we would love to hear from you.

This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who has a few hours a month to spare. It could enable you to develop new skills, or make use of your professional skills in a voluntary capacity. It could make a real difference to the lives of older people.

To find out more about becoming a volunteer with Independent Age contact Gina Meyer, area manager for London, on gina.meyer@independentage.org.uk or 020 8858 2423.

**Yours faithfully,
Gina Meyer,
PO Box 56483,
London SE3 3BW.**

East Finchley under fire

Dear Editor,

My very kind niece sent me a cutting from your paper ("First World War memorials", Letters, January 2013). I must explain to you that I am 93 years old and housebound. I was born and bred in East Finchley, which I left for health reasons in 1971. I was married in 1941 at Holy Trinity Church. I did recognise a lot of the names you mentioned in the letter. My surname before I married was Cork.

I did my war work in Simms Motor Units for four years and I did my stint on fire watch during the war. I was a firefighter trained to put out incendiary bombs, three of us in a team. I remember a land mine falling in the High Road. It destroyed the British Legion Club, where I'd spent many happy hours before the war.

I remember the North Circular Road being built in 1927. Before it was built, the area was a lovely field with a little brook. I spent most of my childhood playing there. I don't suppose I would recognise East Finchley now. I hear it has changed a lot and, as I read in another of your letters, please don't spoil it.

I understand your paper is run by volunteers. You are doing a very good job. Please keep up the good work. I hope you don't mind me writing to you. I was so pleased to get the cutting, it made my day. I hope you can understand my writing. My old hands are a trouble.

**Yours faithfully,
Doris Underhay,
Priory Road,
Watton, Norfolk.**

Road clearance is snow joke

Dear Editor,

After all the 'excitement' of being snowed in on the ski slopes of East Finchley in January I left the snow of Barnet to get to my office in Docklands. My journey took me through the boroughs of Camden, Haringey, Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets, and along both main and side roads.



Residents of Cherry Tree Road clearing the snow

Grit spreading in Cherry Tree Road

During the recent wintry weather residents of Cherry Tree Road involved in Barnet's Adopt-a-Street project got to work spreading grit.

Thanks to Nathan Eastwood and Oliver Mellman with his son Jacob braving the elements, the road was soon usable again. The street has its own grit box along with equipment provided by the council.

In all these boroughs the side roads, as well as the main roads, had been cleared of all ice and snow.

I did not need a 'Welcome to Barnet' board to greet me to know when I had got back here to Barnet, as the pavements were still covered with ice slush and snow. Is this a forecast of what life and our services will be like when Barnet's outsourcing comes into effect? None of the boroughs I drove through were Tory controlled.

Another point about our council, no doubt their next freebie report on how (well!) they are doing will mention the containers of sand which they tell us are all around the borough. I would like to know where the nearest one to Cherry Tree Wood and the Summerlee roads is, as neither I nor my neighbours have ever seen one. I recall I raised a similar question last winter and never got a reply. Where ARE the sand stocks for East Finchley? We residents deserve to be told.

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

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.



Pooh-pooh these litter louts

By Janet Maitland

I'm getting completely hacked off by the avalanche of litter and dog poo that's overtaking East Finchley. I've no idea if it's actually getting worse or whether I'm just turning into someone from *One Foot in the Grave*. But I don't care which it is.

Are the people responsible expressing some kind of existential angst or have they just turned into giant toddlers, dropping rubbish everywhere for mummy to pick up? There's even a trend for bagging up dog poo and then draping the bags on bush and tree branches, because plastic only takes a mere 2,000 years to disintegrate, doesn't it? And why do council signs about litter refer to 'tidiness'? Who's going to care about that? What about not polluting the environment?

I do ring the council to complain, but this seems to take weeks, unless you're reporting something like a rotting elephant carcass outside a food shop. I've found that using Fix My Street (www.fixmystreet.com) is better. What you put on the site goes straight to Barnet and they do act quickly. But they only deal with the immediate problem and ignore requests for bins in strategic places.

You probably have your own bits of N2 where you walk past muttering, plotting imaginary conversations with the people who drop the litter. But you rarely see them actually drop it, do you? I even try and glean some hope from this, that there's still an element of shame.

When I do see people chuck litter, I do say something. Once I called a teenage boy a barbarian, but I think I just made his day. Another time I threw a carton of KFC chicken bones back through the car window it had been chucked out of and then had to run away as an absolutely furious woman started getting out of the car.

If you feel like I do, could you start complaining to Fix my Street if you don't already? Maybe if the council got more complaints, especially those that mention the need for bins and for cleaning the streets more often, they might actually do something more than sending out a SWAT team to clear up the little patch that you've complained about.

Why not clear up the litter on the pavement and in the gutter in front of your house? I do. I've also been known to do the whole street when I can't stand it any longer. And litter picking can have unexpected rewards. Once I was clearing up litter in Cherry Tree Wood and a little boy stared at me open-mouthed. "Are you a human being, or do you live in the forest?" he asked.



Get your walking boots on for this year's Big Fun Walk.

Boots at the ready

Do you, like Nancy Sinatra, have boots that are made for walking? If so, you might want to consider signing up for the annual Big Fun Walk in aid of North London Hospice.

This popular annual walk sets off from East Finchley tube station on Sunday 7 April and follows a seven-and-a-half mile route through many of London's Royal Parks, finishing at Westminster.

Last year's walk raised more than £150,000 for the hospice, which provides palliative care for terminally ill patients and their families both at home and at the hospice's centres in Barnet and Enfield. It costs more than £7 million a year to deliver its end-of-life care services and 75% of this must be found through fundraising.

Community fundraiser Natalie Gordon said: "We really want to make this year's walk the biggest and best yet. Last year raised an incredible amount for the hospice. We hope the community will once again get involved and support us this year. We look forward to seeing everyone walking together on the day." There is no registration fee but walkers are asked to raise a minimum of £40 sponsorship for the hospice. To register, log on to www.bigfunwalk.co.uk or call the fundraising team on 020 8446 2288.