



Letters



Our new family of recycling bins.

Bins, bins, bins

Dear Editor

I am all for recycling, but what Barnet Council is doing to our front gardens, pavements and public highways is insanity! Bins, bins, BINS! I'm sure not only the streets I live in are affected!

Yours faithfully,

Name and address supplied.

Kicking the habit

Dear Editor

From my first cigarette out of a pack of Woodbine in the boys' toilet at school when I was fifteen until eight months ago I had been a regular smoker of between 15-20 cigarettes a day for nearly fifty years. After reading your piece: Tips to kick the smoking habit (The Archer, October 2013), I just had to respond.

Clearly, Miss Bouvier either never was a smoker or she never became addicted to smoking. When a seasoned smoker craves for a cigarette, they have to smoke. If it means a battle with the elements, be it storm, tempest, or earthquake, whether or not they have a phone or a bottle of water in their hand at the time, they will suffer that. You can drink any quantity of water, take no end of deep breaths and eat sugar-free mints or gum till doomsday, but you must have that cigarette. If you deny yourself, the craving remains with you for longer than '3-5 minutes'! Ms Bouvier seems to have made no allowance for the effect of nicotine in the system.

Five to ten years ago, before aids to help people stop smoking became available, a smoker kicked the habit through either a serious health scare or just plain will power. Whether or not they could afford to smoke was not an issue. Now, with patches, sprays, lozenges, gum and electronic cigarettes available, all of which contain nicotine, it has become easier to stop but it still requires will power.

The only advice this lady offers that I can subscribe to is that you should be clear about your reasons for wanting to stop smoking. Perhaps hypnotherapy does help, I've not tried it. But for Ms Bouvier to sweep aside the determination of former smokers, many of whom, I am sure, have been through hell and high water in their successful attempts to stop smoking, with claim that 'will power has very little to do with your success', I think is derisory.

Yours Faithfully

T McCann

Hobbs Green, N2.

Worried about foxes

Dear Editor

I am very concerned about the number of foxes roaming around the streets, and among the back and front gardens of East Finchley.

I have seen them in my back garden and they come right up to the back door. Last week two of them were going wild in my garden.

I have seen them roaming in the gardens of Summerlee Avenue and on the road. They are not afraid of the public.

I think they are a danger to the public, and something should be done about them. Barnet Council should do something about them. I'd like to know what other people think?

Yours faithfully,
Dolores Connolly
Address supplied

Can children travel safely in minicabs?

Dear Editor,

When a local resident recently contacted five minicab companies to book a minicab with a child car seat for a family member travelling with a toddler, she was advised only one minicab had a child car seat but there was no guarantee it would be available as it depended if it's free when booked!

Apparently the law states a child can travel without a child car seat in some circumstances. In a licensed taxi or minicab (private hire vehicles), children under three years of age can travel without a child's car seat or seat belt, but only on the back seat, and children aged three years or older can travel without a child's car seat if they wear an adult seat belt.

Surely taxis and minicabs are not exempt from having accidents and causing injuries to passengers, regardless of adult or child? As Health and Safety rules apply to almost everything and anything these days, I wonder why it doesn't extend to private hire vehicles?

Yours faithfully,
Betti Blatman,
Cecilia Close, 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.

Laundrette changes hands

By Diana Cormack
After 27 years of running A Heck of a Wash at 109 High Road, Hector Cisneros has handed the business on. In a farewell letter displayed on the door he thanked his loyal staff and his many clients and wished the new owner well. The laundrette is now owned by Mr A Razavi, who also owns Wash R Us in East End Road.

Manager Dav Zeinali worked there for two years and is happily settling in to his new premises. He has charge of 18 washing machines with varying capacities along with ten dryers. He told THE ARCHER that in addition to the service washes, shirt laundering, dry cleaning and alterations already available, a shoe repair service will be offered to customers.

A Heck of a Wash is open and fully attended from 7.30am -7.30pm on weekdays, 7.30am -6.30pm on Saturdays and 9am -5pm on Sundays.



Manager Dav Zeinali. Photo by Diana Cormack.

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.



A Cliff-hanger for Ricky Savage

By Harriet Webb

What has happened to Kalashnikov Kultur? On reading October's offering I almost felt sorry for Ricky in his pitiful attempt to savage Cliff Richard. While trying to castigate the "weirdly mysterious ... ageing phenomenon" (surely you're not ageist, Ricky?) he merely succeeded in producing a series of back-handed compliments.

Cliff was 73 on 14 October and is still worthy of media attention with the news of his 100th album. And it will sell, Ricky, just like everything he has "churned out" for the past 54 years. It seemed to bother Ricky that Cliff has altered his style over the years, but beginning as Britain's answer to Elvis Presley was a sure way to get him noticed, after which he was able to make it on his own. Not forgetting The Shadows of course, but they all managed to survive after drifting apart.

I saw their "final" tour at the O2, when arenas country-wide sold out and extra performances had to be arranged. Of course the audience didn't look particularly cool, but they probably did get a bit hot under the collar when Radio 2 removed Cliff from their play list (Radio 1 has just done this to Robbie Williams).

Who can say why the annual calendar which outsells all others is the one featuring Cliff Richard? Maybe it's because he looks like a nice person and he probably is. After all, not many singers would be brave enough to risk their reputation by singing live and unaccompanied to entertain a rain-swept Wimbledon crowd, and in perfect pitch too.

He was decent enough not to complain when he was cheated out of winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1968, the truth about which has since been revealed. Newspapers seem to have stopped trying to dig up any scandal about him. After all, he is now a knight of the realm.

Ricky didn't mention that, but on re-reading "Beware ... Cliff" there is only one thing I can say: "Come out of the closet, Ricky. You're actually a big Cliff Richard fan"!!



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