



Letters

Post Office opinions

A number of readers have let THE ARCHER see the comments they sent to Sally Buchanan, franchise project manager for the Post Office, about the planned move of our Crown Post Office to the UOE shop in the High Road. Here we print two of their letters:

Dear Sally Buchanan,

I refer to your update of the proposed branch move. I was previously aware that the new Post Office was to be inconveniently sited at the rear of the limited UOE premises. That news was disappointing enough and you now advise about the three steps rather than level with the rest of the shop floor. Thus, a further problem for those with mobility issues and a complete contrast to the current spacious premises with a flat floor. Of even more concern is where the UOE shop is situated on the opposite side of the High Road. There are no pedestrian crossings nearby and I anticipate that accidents will occur as people will tend to cross the road in between the crossings, e.g. from NatWest Bank or Santander. Another factor that has not been considered is the nature of the nearby shops to UOE compared to those close to the current Post Office. I have no doubt that customers are more likely to make use of the banks or Budgens, or perhaps Amy's, when visiting the current Post Office as they are all on the same side of the High Road. That facility will cease to exist in the event of a move to UOE and would necessitate more crossing of the busy High Road as already mentioned. In summary, having regard to UOE's size and position, and the issues therefore arising, I trust you will accept the general weight of opinion from the public consultation and abandon the proposed move to these entirely unsuitable premises.

Charles Vincent  
Brackbury Road, N2.

Dear Sally Buchanan,

This branch is due to close and a much smaller, franchised, office (or rather, I understand, literally a counter) is to replace it, across Finchley High Road in UOE. I wish to formally object to this move for a number of reasons: 1. Fewer services will be offered (as a notice posted in the current branch states). 2. Fewer people will be employed. This will, inevitably, result in longer waiting periods at any time of day. 3. No office of comparable size,

staffing level and provision of service will be within easy reach of the current one: Muswell Hill has limited, paid for only parking (which creates difficulty for all who have mobility difficulties apart from the registered disabled); it is physically smaller than East Finchley and thus frequently, and quite literally, has queues out of the door. For this reason it is convenient only for those who already live close to it. 4. Consultation has consisted, so far, only of those fortunate enough to hear of this planned closure (and that by chance) who have known where and how to respond. Why, for example, has the Post Office not sought to inform all the households and businesses served by the nearby sorting office (by means of a leaflet via the usual delivery service) of these plans? Or is the newly privatised Post Office seeking to slim down its workforce by stealth? 5. I note, via an article in the local paper THE ARCHER that the current staff will be redeployed or will take voluntary redundancy. This suggests that the staff employed in the new, much smaller, branch will therefore be untrained as to their duties, thus reinforcing point 2 above. 6. Perhaps this is intentional, so that expenditure on a post office in East Finchley can be entirely curtailed over a relatively short time scale. 7. The article in THE ARCHER also appears to suggest that access will be more difficult and less accessible. Given the present location and accessibility, this will make it less attractive and easy to visit, reinforcing point 5 above. 8. I trust that no plans are afoot to close the local sorting office on Market Place, N2. As it is, since shortly before privatisation, the time of our daily postal delivery has become progressively later in the day; and we live close to the start of a delivery round, not too far from the sorting office itself.

Brian Goldfarb,  
Address supplied.

Hospital bus service makes sense

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the account in February's ARCHER of Brian Pearce's struggle to have a bus service made available for patients going to and from Finchley Memorial Hospital.

What a splendid idea! And one I should think that would barely disrupt the present services of the 263 and 382 buses.

I wonder why TfL talks of cost and extra buses. It would be only a matter of minutes for the existing 263 and 382 to make the small diversion up Granville Road, turn around in the hospital car park and then back on to their regular routes. No difficulty at all as far as I can see!

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.

Good luck to Mr Pearce. I hope that TfL will be persuaded to see the reasonableness of his request and take some action to help the local community, where it would be most appreciated.

Yours faithfully,  
Barbara Godfrey,  
Deansway, N2.

Gibbet in East Finchley Our story on page 3 about the gibbet returning to East Finchley is not all it seems. In fact, it's totally untrue. We may be a little late with our April Fool but you can't blame us for giving it a go. Then again, if anyone thinks it could be a good addition to the High Road, just let us know.

How to survive exam time

Exam time is fast approaching so here are some tips from educational psychologist Naomi Burgess for you and for your family who are supporting you while you complete coursework and revise.

What are some of the most important things to know about getting ready for exams? Let's divide that up into the study part and the looking after yourself part.

Be prepared, start early, make a weekly timetable and leave yourself space for fun. Take each of your subjects and check your work is up-to-date. Read through your notes and your work and make a list of help you need from your teacher or family; then see what you can do to help yourself.

Which are some of the best ways to get the information into your head? Look at old questions and exam papers and generate as many new questions as you can. On your own or with friends, map out the answers. Pretending you are the examiner puts you in control!

Check for websites and



Jitterbug takes David Broome for a walk

Pet of the Month: Jitterbug

By Sheila Armstrong

David and Caroline Broome invited THE ARCHER round to meet their cat Jitterbug, a Long Haired Devon Rex. But if you go to meet Jitterbug you cannot avoid meeting the other six cats who also live there: all pedigree, all beautiful, all colour coded in shades of brown and cream.

It's been said that cats do better living on their own and are basically solitary creatures, but this happy well-loved group consisting of a Long Haired Devon Rex, a Sirex, an Oriental, a Siamese, 2 Sphynx, and a Havana all get on very well at their home in Church Lane.

If any readers would like to see this lovely band of brothers (and sisters) David and Caroline will be opening their newly designed garden on Sunday 15 June in conjunction with The Yellow Book NGS Open Gardens Scheme. The cats will be around too. Do not miss it.



JITTERBUG: Age: 7 Breed: Long-haired Devon Rex Likes: Going for walks on a lead. Playing in the snow. Dislikes: Sleeping Talents: Gets up to all sorts of mischief, moving pictures and mirrors, and opening cupboards. Claim to fame: He was on TV in the Alan Titchmarsh programme Love Your Garden in 2010.

Have you got a pet of the month? Send us a photo and tell us about them, including their likes, dislikes, talents and favourite food. Email us at the-archer@lineone.net or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

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Part Time Receptionist & Kitchen Support

Children's day nursery in East Finchley requires a part time receptionist / administrator / kitchen support assistant.

The hours are 9.30 to 2.30 Monday to Friday all year round Salary is £704.16 per month.

For further details call: 0207 998 1725

Would you like the opportunity to train to become a fully qualified Nursery Nurse whilst working in a nursery and earning £150 per week?

In order to meet current funding guidelines and Ofsted requirements applicants must be aged between 17 and 24.

You will work directly with children ensuring they are well cared whilst studying to gain a level 2 or 3 qualification.

For further details call: 0207 998 1725