



Letters

Bag up someone else's mess

Dear Editor,

I think we are so lucky in East Finchley, with proximity to so many open spaces: Coldfall Wood, Long Lane Pasture, Cherry Tree Wood, Victoria Park, the Glebelands, Hampstead Heath, fields behind Totteridge and Mill Hill, and soon. Yet all of these beautiful places are frequently marred by litter (and dog-poo bags), even when there are bins provided.

I was muttering away to myself about the unnecessary mess, when it occurred to me that if each person like myself who is irritated by the litter collected a carrier bag full and put it in the bins then the problem would be alleviated.

Of course, ideally, the people who leave the mess should be responsible enough to take it away with them. I have never understood why if cans and wrappers can be carried to a site, they cannot also be carried from it, but it is no easy task to educate the irresponsible.

So, although I don't particularly want to collect other people's litter, I shall in future carry a suitable bag with me when I go for a walk... and perhaps others could do likewise. It is a fact that when litter is already present, it feels less of a misdeed to add to it.

Yours faithfully,

Linda A. Dolata

Leopold Road, N2.

Refuse truck refusal

Dear Editor,

I wish to draw your attention to the despicable behaviour of one of Barnet Council's refuse vehicle drivers. The driver repeatedly stopped directly opposite parked vehicles, thus blocking the entire road in both directions, when it was entirely possible to park only a few feet away and leave room for traffic to pass.

At one point a lady travelling in the opposite direction pulled over into a large space and flashed the refuse truck through. Once again he seemingly deliberately stopped opposite a parked car, preventing anyone from passing and also completely blocking the lady that had pulled over for him.

I was behind the refuse truck and could clearly see the lady motioning for the driver to move forward. Even the bin men were signalling for the driver to move forward, as they had finished emptying bins, but the driver continued to hang out of his window leering and laughing at the lady, who was by now sounding her horn.

Had he moved forward 10 feet as requested, not only would the oncoming traffic have had a clear path, but many of us behind him would have been able to overtake. By the time I managed to pass the refuse truck, there must have been approximately 30 vehicles, including two buses, queuing behind me. My 10-minute journey between offices took 35 minutes, resulting in my missing a client entirely.

Whilst I accept that refuse collection must take place in a timely fashion, I believe that council drivers should be encouraged to be considerate to residents and other road users at all times. There is enough congestion on our roads without one a council employee deliberately setting out to cause havoc. Knowing that his wage is being paid by tax payers only adds insult to injury.

Yours faithfully,

David Evans-Smith

Twyford Avenue, N2

Arts festival comes of age

By Geoffrey Hanson, festival director

We come of age this year and proudly present this year's programme, with all events taking place between Saturday 13 September and Sunday 21 September at All Saints' Church, Durham Road, or the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road.

Our 18th birthday coincides with the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. We have marked this by including a programme of poetry and music written by some of those who fought in that war and a commemoration of Jack Parr, a 17-year-old from Finchley who was the first British soldier to be killed in combat.

George Butterworth was killed at The Somme in 1916 and the Haydn Chamber Orchestra include his evocative work *The Banks of Green Willow* in their programme. Pop Up Opera's updated performance of *Così fan tutte* takes place in an English country house during the First World War, and the Phoenix Cinema will screen *Oh! What a Lovely War*. You will see, too, other things to enjoy and we look forward to meeting you at the festival.

Festival art exhibition

Enjoy our art exhibition every evening from 6pm during the festival and at weekends from 12 noon until 10pm. Art of every kind is for sale and 40% of the selling price of each work sold will be donated to the two charities we are supporting this year. Further information from Pauline Treen 020 8340 5643

Saturday 13 September

12pm: Punch & Judy for the children, All Saints' Church. Geoff Felix presents his traditional Punch & Judy Show in the church garden, or inside if it's wet. Admission Free: Bucket collection

7.30pm: BBC Elstree Concert Band, All Saints' Church. An exciting programme of music from the movies. Tickets: £16, front centre reserved/£12, rear centre reserved/sides unreserved £9/£1*

Sunday 14 September

7.30pm: Organist Jennifer Bate & the Choir of All Saints', All Saints' Church. A concert marking the 70th birthday year of international concert organist and local resident Jennifer Bate, who will play on the Hunter/Bishop organ: including a new three movement work by festival director Geoffrey Hanson together with works by Durufle, Bach and two fragments of music by Mendelssohn, completed by Jennifer. The All Saints' Choir sing music drawn from their repertoire, from Viadana to Elgar and beyond. Tickets: £10 all seats unreserved (18 and under £1).

Monday 15 September

7.30pm: East Finchley Writers at All Saints' Church. For many years a group of local writers has met weekly to read and share thoughts on their work. They present a selection across many

styles and genres to move, amuse and surprise you. Admission Free. Bucket collection.

Tuesday 16 September



Regular favourites, Paprika

7.30pm: Pop Up Opera at All Saints' Church. An absorbing staged performance of Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte*. Mozart's tale of love and intrigue is cleverly set in a country house during the Great War. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10, sides unreserved/£1*

Wednesday 17 September

7.30pm: Paprika, All Saints' Church. The third festival appearance of this Balkan Band, they will no doubt give another of their show stopping performances uniting traditional Eastern European, Balkan, Gypsy and classical music with foot stomping rhythms. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Thursday 18 September

7.30pm: In Voice & Verse, All Saints' Church. Actor Lance Pierson, soprano Belinda Yates and pianist Heather Chamberlain present Shakespeare's *Greatest Hits*. The best speeches and sonnets will feature but alongside them come the great songs. From classical compositions to West End hits you can hear how the Bard inspired generations of composers. Tickets: £15, front centre reserved/£10 rear centre reserved/£5 sides unreserved/£1*

Friday 19 September

7.30pm: Poetry and music marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, All Saints' Church. John Parr, the first British soldier to die in the Great War, was born, educated and worked in Finchley. He was killed at the beginning of the war in Mons, Belgium, aged 17. The first half of the programme will be readings of poetry by war poets and material relating to John Parr and his bereaved family. The second half will consist of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, a setting of Walt Whitman's war poetry, performed by the London Ripieno Singers, conducted by Geoffrey Hanson. Tickets: £16, front centre reserved/£12, rear

centre reserved/£9 sides unreserved/£1 for 18s and under.

Saturday 20 September

7.30pm: Haydn Chamber Orchestra at All Saints' Church. Works by Bartok, Butterworth, Mozart and Mendelssohn. Tickets: £20, front centre reserved/£15, rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Sunday 21 September

2pm: Screening of Oh! What a Lovely War at the Phoenix Cinema. A significant but controversial film from 1969, with a star studded cast directed by Richard Attenborough, based on the 1963 stage musical. Tickets: £7 (Friends of Phoenix £5) from Phoenix Box Office 020 8444 6789.

7.30pm: The King's Men at All Saints' Church. The close harmony group formed from the choral Scholars of King's College Cambridge make a welcome return to the festival. Their programme ranges from the serious to the light hearted, all done with impeccable style, and superb musicianship. Tickets: £20 front centre reserved/£15 rear centre reserved/£10 sides unreserved/£1*

Booking opens Monday 18 August. Tickets for all concerts can be booked online via Ticket Source at www.eastfinchleyarts.ticketsource.co.uk (10% surcharge on each ticket); in person at Black Gull Books, 121 High Road, N2 8AG (020 8444 4717); at the door, according to availability. Credit cards will not be accepted at the Ticket Desk on the night of the event.

*There is a special rate of £1 for those of 18 years and under. These tickets cannot be prebooked but are available at the ticket desk immediately prior to the event. Disabled access and facilities are available at both venues.

Tuesday 30th September | 10.00am until 6.00pm

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