



Letters

Don't let our library disappear

Dear Editor,

I understand that Barnet Council must continue to make budget savings in these straitened times but to take an axe to the borough's entire library service seems completely out of proportion.

Our excellent library in the High Road and its excellent staff, along with others in Barnet, will be decimated if the council's proposals are allowed to go ahead.

To give the council credit, they are running a full public consultation exercise on the library cuts. But it's always difficult not to believe that their minds have been made up long before the results of that consultation are known.

So do we want a library for readers of all ages in East Finchley? Now is the time we must decide. Once it's gone, it will never return.

The move to a library service run by volunteers is happening all over the country. It may work here too, but what happens when the volunteers stop turning up?

I believe the only answer is to fight as hard as we can to keep the library open in its current form. The council needs to know that we will not stand back and watch such a well-established and much-loved community facility vanish forever.

**Yours faithfully,
David Melsome,
Richmond Road, N2**

We get letters on all topics in our mail bag but the one below arrived in late October and was clearly meant for a different group of Archers. We couldn't resist printing it...

Knock twice for no

Dear Editor,

I have been listening to *The Archers* for years and loved it. I now don't enjoy it as much as I used to. I especially don't like the story line at the moment about Jennifer Aldridge having a seizure.

It is not innocent fun. The Bible tells us not to try and get in touch with the dead. Why? Because it is dangerous to mess about with the occult as many people who have done it will testify. Many people have been terrified and have sought help from Christians who can truly help them.

Please be sensible because a lot of vulnerable people may copy.

**Yours faithfully,
Mrs T Peake,
By email**

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.

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Back in the old school yard



Class act: Holy Trinity pupils perform their nativity play in 1962.

The year class at Holy Trinity School that left in 1966 to embark on secondary education is holding a reunion and needs help in locating classmates from years 1960 through to 1966.

The wonderful photo from Friends Reunited shows the children in 1962 at their Christmas carol service held in the old Congregational Church hall that used to stand on the site that is now Budgens.

Mark Littlefield, who's helping to organise the reunion, says teachers who spring to mind (with apologies for any misremembered spellings) are Mr Wenman, Mr James, Mrs Fuller, Mrs Thompson, Miss Nichols, Miss Owen, Mrs Ferraday, Miss Jenkins, Mr Christmas (deputy headteacher), Miss Gillett (headteacher), Mr Davies (headteacher) and Mrs Johnson the welfare officer.

Is your name here?

Classmates from those days include: Andrew Smith, Angela Nisi, Brent Hayhoe, Bronwyn Hogan, Chris Bradley, Chris Hands, Chris Harding, Christine Penn, Christine Smith, Dave Baker, Dora Brown, Eileen Miall, Elizabeth Wilson, Emily Petrou, Fiona Preston, Gabriel Sheard, Gary Andress, Gordon Crawford, Howard Collins, Ian Collett, Ian Read, Ilsa Hahn, Jane Aldridge, Jane Greenwood, Jane Thorne, Janet Field, Janice Howkins, Jennifer George, John Davey, John Mann, Judy Clarke, Kathy Nelmes, Keith Waller, Lesley Cullender, Linda Endacott, Maria Velasco, Mark Littlefield, Maureen Grant, Paul Shearing, Peter Edwards, Peter Gulliver, Phil Djemal, Philip Horner, Robert Sullivan, Sandra Holmes, Sean Potter, Steve Hancock, Steve Harris, Steve Jayes, Steve Milburn, Steve Wilson, Susan Manning and Tina Nicholls.

Were you there yourself or do you know anyone who was? To find out more about the reunion, contact Mark on 020 8441 0970 or marklittlefield@btinternet.com

Quiz-tastic!

Well done to *THE ARCHER* quiz team who claimed victory at Deborah Granville's lively new quiz night at The Clissold Arms on 11 November.

On this occasion the glory was shared by Sheila Armstrong, Ken Carter, Jan Davies, John Dearing and Diana and Ian Cormack.

More Quizzeramas from 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month at the Clissold Arms hosted by Deborah of DesEvents.com, East Finchley's answer to Alexander Armstrong! Entry is £2 per person with teams of up to six. Winners take the pot and runners-up win a round of drinks.

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.



Goodbye 134

By Tony Lee

No, not the opening line to another reworking of Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* but a paean to a temporary pleasure and transport practicality that we have just lost.

In November I chose to ride the diverted 134 bus back from Tottenham Court Road rather than the tube, knowing it was the last day the service would deliver me directly to East Finchley and not take its usual turn past Highgate Wood to Muswell Hill.

Sitting on the upper deck and peering through the misted windows, I was conscious of the pleasures of travelling above ground as opposed to the slightly speedier but geographically oblivious underground alternative. The BT Tower, the feline statuettes that guard Greater London House, the comedically immortalized Mornington Crescent station, the many period house fronts lining the way... our route home is not without its visual joys.

This temporary diversion has highlighted the fact that East Finchley sorely lacks a direct bus route to central London (apart from the N20 at night). And when a single bus journey costs around half of the same distance by underground (two buses being required to reach the West End anyway) it's hard not to feel financially penalized for living here when so many neighbouring areas have direct services.

As mentioned in the November issue of *THE ARCHER*, commuters who agree should inform TfL of the popularity of the diverted 134 and the need for a direct daytime bus route from our High Road to central London, in the hope that one day we will acquire such a service permanently.

Until then we can only lament the loss, so altogether then:

"Goodbye 134,
Though I only knew you for a trice,
You had the grace to bus me home,
And for only half the price..."

Editor's note: Night bus N20 follows the Tube line, turning left at the Bald Faced Stag to go on to Finchley Central, which already has its own night bus. So it doesn't help the large and increasing numbers of people who live on the long one-bus stretch of the High Road up to North Finchley. TfL are aware of this but anyone who wants a better service should keep contacting them.



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