



Letters

The pavilion and the kiosk

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to Eugene Myerson's letter in May's *Archer* please.

Firstly, thank you Eugene for your kind words. The last few months of running the kiosk, just as my five-year lease was due to expire, I was feeling worn out and looked forward to a change.

I always knew the kiosk was only a temporary building designed to be relocated to another park once the pavilion had been developed and operating as a cafe. Sadly, the efforts of a dedicated steering committee of local residents that I formed to make this happen did not come to fruition.

I would like to make clear that Barnet Council did not give me notice to leave the kiosk. The council offered me a temporary lease on the kiosk until the new operator that had been granted a lease on the pavilion was ready to trade. I declined the offer as I wanted a change of scene and move on to new things, so I liaised with a nearby cafe, where I knew pupils from the nearby TreeHouse school trained, to step in and run it instead.

I thoroughly enjoyed training the pupils from the TreeHouse School whilst at the kiosk, so this is the direction I have now moved into and have found a job that I love and my heart is in once again. The charity I now work for and the TreeHouse School sent a proposal to Barnet Council at the end of last year to continue operating the kiosk as a training facility until the pavilion was ready to trade. Our proposal was declined, as we were told that the pavilion would be ready to trade by early 2014 and that the kiosk was being relocated to another park.

Due to structural problems, the pavilion has not opened as early as anticipated, therefore rather than leaving the park without any refreshment facilities, the council has granted the new pavilion operator a temporary lease on the kiosk.

Should the Pavilion plans fall through, the charity I now work for in collaboration with the TreeHouse School would like to resubmit our proposal to reopen the kiosk as a training facility for young people should it come back up for tender. If this does not happen, I shall be taking away a lot of wonderful memories from my time in Cherry Tree Wood with me and Rob and I would like to again thank all of our lovely customers over the years for their support and wish you all well.

Yours faithfully,
Sally Wigfield,
Address supplied.

Unightly and unsafe

Dear Editor,

Am I the only one ashamed and revolted by the huge amount of dog poo in our streets? Every single day, to get to their nursery, school or work, hundreds of children and adults use The Walks, the public footpath that runs through East Finchley from New Trinity Road to East Finchley tube station. For many, the footpath is the safest way to get to their destination, away from the heavy traffic on the High Road.

Every single day, we all face potentially walking in dog poo on that path. Whereas it may not be too difficult for adults to avoid, it is hard to keep your small children safe as

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"Letters Page"

The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 2DE or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

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they bounce along.

Today, I spotted no less than five poohs on a tiny stretch of the path that runs between Leopold Road and Leslie Road.

Not only does such a huge amount of pooh in our streets make East Finchley look grotty and undesirable as a neighbourhood (so much for the "East Finchley Village" marketing exercise!), it also poses a health risk as dog poo can transmit various diseases such as roundworms, salmonella and E-coli.

I met three council workers from the gardening department who were about to start their work on one of the estates along the path. They told me how they are regularly covered in pooh as they mow the lawns.

It is clear that some residents will never have consideration of others. But please can we have more signs up warning people of the £100 fine that will be enforced on anyone caught not tidying up after their dog.

I urge Barnet Council to consider making enforcement officers more visible along the path to send the right signal: that this is not a place for people to take their dogs to the toilet.

Yours faithfully,
Pernille Richards
New Trinity Road, N2.

Scottish vitriol

Dear Editor,

I read the 'Kalashnikov Kultur' column for May with genuine surprise. The tone of *The Archer* is normally a warm and welcoming one. To read a piece of ignorant, racist diatribe masquerading as humour is astonishing. The piece seems to me ignorant because of the crude and offensive stereotyping. The Scots have contributed a huge amount to the life of the United Kingdom, although I suppose there is a degree of subjectivity about such an assessment. My family is Scottish and perhaps I value the contribution of the Scots more highly than those without a Scottish connection. I personally would hugely regret the imposition of a new border between Scotland and England and the division that would entail. As a litmus test for racism, though, try substituting 'Jewish' or 'Nigerian' for 'Scottish'. I hope *The Archer* would not have published anything anti-Semitic which criticised Jewish culinary ability or diet or suggested inherent aggressiveness and so on, ending by suggesting Jews should be expelled. In case you are in any doubt, the definition of race for legal discrimination purposes in the Equality Act includes direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of national origins. I hope that Ricky Savage intended the piece to be amusing rather than offensive and that he simply catastrophically misjudged the tone, as did his editor. Frankly, though, the vitriol of the piece and the lack of any good word for the Scots leaves me thinking he really does hold the racist views he expresses.

Yours faithfully,
Colin Yeo,
Ingram Road, N2.

Stroma has landed

By Daphne Chamberlain
ARCHER deliverer Stroma Leith made her charity skydive last month. It was something she had always wanted to do, but did it live up to her expectations? She told us, "Yes it did, but if you blow up any of the photos of me descending, I look very 'po faced', probably because I was feeling a tiny bit sick from all the spinning around and was looking forward to landing!"

"It was nerve-wracking having to fall out face first at 13,000 feet, descending for 7,000 feet before the parachute was deployed. Wow! You fall at 120 mph and the wind buffets you, but you are very tightly strapped to your instructor. (The straps dig in a bit.) Then when he opened the parachute it was lovely and quiet and he pointed out landmarks (Silverstone was close by) and spun us around to look this way and that, which was what was slightly sick-making!!

"Anyway, I did it! And the weather was brilliant. Many thanks to everyone for your donations and support. I am so grateful."

At the time of writing Stroma had raised about £2,000 for the North London Hospice, with a little more still to come in. There is still time to contribute; either via www.doitforcharity.com/stroma, or by cheque to the hospice. Taxpayers can increase the amount donated by giving their address.

Life models for would-be artists

Here's your chance to try drawing from real-life models. Lauderdale House in Highgate is running drop-in life drawing sessions throughout the summer term.

Two models are available, one maintaining longer poses for up to an hour and another keeping shorter poses from five to 15 minutes.

You don't need any experience but do need to take your own materials. Paper will be on sale. Sessions run on Fridays until 18 July (half term 30 May) from 10am to 1pm. Fees are £10.50 with £8.50 concessions and no booking is necessary. Find out more from www.lauderdalehouse.co.uk

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.



Warning to fellow dog owners

By Tania Gordon

Our beloved Ziggy has suffered the horrors of five unprovoked and vicious attacks by unleashed pit bull mix dogs over the past five years. The last horrific attack was fatal.

Be aware of unleashed, untrained and highly aggressive dogs, over which their owners have no control. These dogs are dangerous and are certainly capable of attacking humans too.

Sadly, such dog-on-dog attacks continue to occur without any recourse to the law as it stands (the police will only get involved if a human is specifically targeted and injured). The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which was amended in 1997, is at present undergoing further amendments. However, the act is not routinely being enforced.

The majority of dog-on-dog attacks are not reported or documented and the true prevalence is therefore not known. Please contact us via the email address below with any details regarding similar experiences in your area.

Hopefully, by collating this information, we might be able to appeal to the authorities to acknowledge the severity of this issue and take action to protect our dogs and our families in the future.

Thank you and take care.

ziggyt9@gmail.com

Editor's note: The alterations to the Dangerous Dogs Act have just been released and include longer prison sentences for the owners of dogs who kill humans, plus prosecutions if a dog attacks someone on private property or in their home. Punishment for dog-on-dog attacks applies only if the attack is on a guide dog.

Soup kitchen theatre

Fixation Theatre, based at Finchley Youth Theatre, is staging its first charity performance event to raise awareness about homelessness in London and raise funds for local charity Homeless Action Barnet (HAB).

Spare Change will be a multi-accessible performance event, with the audience being greeted in a soup kitchen, along with music performances, drama monologues and poetry.

The performance takes place at the theatre in the High Road on Thursday 10 July at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 each (includes £3 donation). More details at www.fixationtheatre.com.

Chip your dog

The law is changing. As from 6 April 2016 you must have your dog microchipped. Contact the Dogs Trust on 020 7837 0006 for more details or visit www.chipmydog.org.uk

Optometrist looking for research volunteers

By Diana Cormack

Since his student days when he was learning optometry, David Hillel Burns has carried an idea about a basic and simple eyesight measurement. Over the years he has thought about a better way of measuring the extent of accommodation, which is how the eye automatically focuses at different distances. Now David is researching this seriously and to do so he needs your help.

However, you must be between 18 and 43 years of age because your eyes are fully matured after that. As David put it, "It's the last part of growing up that we do." If you would like to be involved in this doctorate research project you would need to attend two sessions, each of about an hour, at David Hillel Optician, 119 High Road.

Held during normal opening hours at a time to suit you, there is no payment but refreshments and agreed expenses such as for public transport within five miles will be available. It will be comfortable, with no side effects and you will not be asked to use any drugs or eye drops. Information collected by the research will remain confidential.

Everyone who completes the research will be entered into a free prize draw for a new iPad mini, with two runner-up prizes of a pair of classic RayBan sun glasses. For further details contact David at 119 High Road, telephone 020 8444 2233 or email office@davidhillel.co.uk