



**Letters**

**Cyclist sees red**

Dear Editor,

I was cycling along the High Road in East Finchley recently and I stopped abruptly at a red traffic light, whereupon a nearby pedestrian pointed at the lights and shouted, "Red means stop". I replied incredulously, "I have stopped", to which the reply was "Only just".

I must be uninformed of the new by-law prohibiting cyclists from "only just stopping" at red traffic lights. I suggest the creation of a new by-law to prevent pedestrians from "carelessly walking into the road into the path of cyclists without checking whether anything is coming, causing the cyclist to dangerously swerve or brake suddenly", since this happens to me on a nearly daily basis. Actually, wait, I think that might already be a law.

Please give cyclists a break: we're not all careless, suicidal maniacs.

Regards,  
Dr Thomas Lidbetter  
Bedford Road, N2.

**I sat in the grandstand**

Dear Editor,

I did once sit in that Grade 2 listed grandstand in Finchley and Wingate (*THE ARCHER*, April 2014)! It was the one time I went to a Finchley Reserves game and presumably prices were correspondingly lower. Normally I was standing with some of my schoolmates in the open!

Finchley mid-50s were one of the top teams nationally, with Hendon, Walthamstow Avenue, Crook Town and Bishop Auckland. As you say, George Robb was the star: he played regularly for the England amateur team and once got called up by the professionals, as well as playing for Spurs. I rather think he was a teacher at Christ's College.

Yours faithfully,  
Pete Mitchell.  
Truro, Cornwall.

Footnote: Yes, George Robb did teach at Christ's College. You can read our online obituary in the July 2012 edition of *THE ARCHER*.

**Litter doesn't need to be a problem**

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to read in your April edition ('Litter problem in Cherry Tree Wood') that "Apparently it is extremely difficult to make a bin with a slot big enough to take rubbish but which animals ... cannot get into." Whoever told your reporter that should take a leaf out of the French autoroute services' facilities book, as they have lidded bins in rural areas all over the country which are not only capacious but are both animal and windproof. Why do the British always make such difficulties and take so long to cotton on to simple ideas? It also took our supermarkets years longer than their continental cousins to introduce coin-operated trolley systems to solve the longstanding 'trolley blight' both in their car parks and on our streets.

Yours faithfully,  
Valerie Teague  
Leopold Road, N2.

**Fond memories of Sue Townsend**

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to hear that Sue Townsend, best known as the author of the successful Adrian Mole series, died at the age of 68 on 10 April.

The first of her comic series, *The*

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto: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.

Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, aged 13 3/4, was published in 1982 and as my son was very enthusiastic about the book, a friend bought it for his birthday and left it gift wrapped on my typewriter in the office. Unfortunately somebody stole it, perhaps due to its popularity, and my friend had to buy my son another copy!

We then went to see the stage production of the book and found Sue Townsend sitting right behind us; after some excitement and a brief chat, she kindly autographed the programme for us.

Yours faithfully,  
Betti Blatman,  
Cecilia Close, N2.

**How to improve Cherry Tree Wood**

Dear Editor,

There are two things that would improve Cherry Tree Wood for local residents.

First, bring back Sally who used to run the kiosk next to the tennis courts. She was the best-ever tenant of that kiosk and Barnet Council was pig-headed and short-sighted in giving her notice before any replacement had been organised. Now we face a summer with no refreshment kiosk at all.

Secondly, abandon the six days a week controlled parking zone. One hour a day from Monday to Friday would be enough to deter all-day parkers and would allow people who need to come by car to park nearby on a Saturday.

The council panicked when the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute announced their intention to move to East Finchley and introduced the CPZ without waiting to see if any parking problems arose. Now that the Institute has all but left East Finchley there is no excuse to keep the CPZ. I know it will cost money to change it to one hour a day and the council will lose revenue but that's their own fault for making the stupid decision in the first place.

Yours faithfully,  
Eugene Myerson (retired transport policy adviser)  
Annington Road, N2.

**Living with dementia**

More and more people are living with dementia at home. There is a real need to share experiences, in order to understand more about dementia.

A Dementia Workshop at Ann Owens Centre in February covered all of these areas and was attended by AgeUK Barnet's volunteers as well as those with dementia, their family and carers. All those who attended found it a very informative and useful event.

For more information contact Dale Bevington from Home Instead Senior Care Barnet on 020 8446 7044.



Oriental garden in spring. Photo by Susan Bennett

**Could you open your garden for good causes?**

By Susan Bennett

As assistant county organiser of the National Gardens Scheme, I am appealing to Archer readers with cherished gardens to consider sharing them for a day with others. Visitors enjoy discovering what can be achieved even in a small space.

I am looking for passion and innovation, the wisdom that comes with trial and error. Perfection is impossible, although we all strive for it. Nature can be a harsh teacher.

Last year, through the generosity of garden owners and their visitors, the NGS donated £2,128,000 to our beneficiaries who include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Help the Hospices, The Carers Trust, QNI, Parkinson's UK.

Email me at [suebearlh@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:suebearlh@yahoo.co.uk) if you'd like to participate. If you don't have

a garden do visit some of the local gems this season and enjoy home-made tea and the fruits of your neighbours' labours.

**Open Gardens 2014**

• **Sunday 4 May**, Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde, 5 ST Regis Close, Alexandra Park Rd N10 2DE, 2-6.30pm. Admission £3.50, children free. Plant sale and teas.

• **Sunday 18 May**, Princes Avenue Gardens, N10, 2-6pm

• **Sunday 18 May**, 94 Oakwood Road, NW11

• **Sunday 25 May**, 58 Summerlee Avenue, N2, 2-6pm

• **Sunday 7 June**, 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, 2-5.30pm

Full details at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**Best paws forward**

On Sunday 8 June, up to 100 dogs will take part in a sponsored 4km walk around Highgate Woods to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The route covers two laps of this beautiful ancient woodland in North London. Small groups will set out from 10am, starting from the playing fields in front of the cafe. There will be prize-giving for the best fundraisers and for the Best Dressed Dogs, and a group from Dima's Good

Boy Dog School will give a demonstration of their talents.

Registration is £8 per dog. For more information visit <http://supportus.cancerresearchuk.org/BPFHighgate>, contact Celia on 07940 592755 or e-mail [nondonfundraisers@gmail.com](mailto:nondonfundraisers@gmail.com)

**Pet of the month - Ceefor**

By Margi McAlister

Ceefor (c-for cat) is a dear little black and white cat who lives in East Finchley with eight-year-old Constance Butterworth and her family. No one really knows her age, which might be 17, as she was left to fend for herself by the previous owners of the house when they moved out. She hadn't even been given a 'proper' name.



She survived a successful thyroid operation as well as the loss of her companion, large fluffy Oscar, after which she became lonely and needy. But she soon picked up, revelling in the love and attention lavished upon her.

She sits contentedly by Constance and her mum when they are at home. From her safe eyrie on the back of the sofa she surveys the street below and basks in the sun, dribbling, fat cheeked when she's content and happy.

**FYT flies high**

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Finchley Youth Theatre demonstrated excellent acting ability, circus skills and creative imagination in their production last month. This was their interpretation of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the short story by Richard Bach about a seagull who dares to be different.

Unlike the rest of his flock, Jonathan flies high and fast. Sent into exile, he meets and learns from three kindred spirits and eventually returns to teach the rest of the flock.

Director Liz Sacre told *THE ARCHER*: "The original is very short and focuses on Jonathan. Mina (Jonathan's love interest), her family, and the birds that take control of the flock are our invention.

The punishment of Mina (drenching in oil) and the development of a military style flock, with raids on other birds, is all from the young people."

I particularly loved the moment when they were alerted for a morning raid on approaching ships.

Obviously both the original and the interpretation are really about people, but the seagull parallel gave a lot of scope. Jonathan and his friends swung, spun and somersaulted on ropes, while members of the flock perched on higher pieces of the set in true bird style.

The flock included smaller and younger actors, who marched in military fashion, but also danced. Liz, who is senior arts worker for Barnet's Youth and Community Service, told us that one sequence was what the dance tutor called emotion memory work. Each dancer was remembering certain emotions and expressing these memories by moving to music. So they each had their own movement pattern, unique to that performance. The programme notes teased us by saying that one sequence was different every night, and if you're wondering, this was it.

Finchley Youth Centre, 142 High Road, N2 9ED, runs classes for 7-18 year-olds in drama, dance, drumming, circus skills and film making. Contact 020 8359 3530 or [fytinfo@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:fytinfo@barnet.gov.uk) for details.

**CEEFOR:**  
**Age:** Nobody knows; maybe 17  
**Breed:** Black and white moggy  
**Likes:** The smell of Chinese takeaway, open drawers to snooze in.  
**Dislikes:** Being on her own.  
**Talents:** Likes to help with school homework mainly by sitting on it.  
**Claim to fame:** A true survivor  
**Your pet of the month**  
 Send us a photo and tell us about them, including their likes, dislikes, friends and special talents. Email us at [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or post to *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.