



Letters

Menacing atmosphere

Dear Editor,
I have noticed lately the degradation of Cherry Tree Wood, when approaching from the East Finchley Station entrance.

It is overgrown, littered and now on the right hand side has become an area where many males gather to drink and smoke during the daytime.

Obviously it is an open space for all but it feels a little menacing and unkempt, making it extremely unpleasant to walk through with the dog.

Kind regards,
Esther Rinkoff
(East Finchley resident for over 50 years)

Five lost parking spaces

Dear Editor,
I am a resident of Leicester Road. For the last two and half years there has been a building site for a new house half way down the road.

In consequence the local authority granted five parking spaces to the builders, marked with one yellow line. Building is very slow. At times, for weeks and months there is simply no building activity.

The local people have lost five parking spaces. Phone calls to the relevant office in the Borough have been left unanswered. I would be grateful if you could investigate why the parking restriction goes on and on.

Yours sincerely,
D. McEwan
Leicester Road, N2

Wanted: local outdoor gym

Dear Editor,
On reading the council newsletter Barnet First, I was delighted to learn that Barnet Council is introducing seven new outdoor gyms in addition to the one already in Oak Hill Park, East Barnet. However, none of the eight listed are near East Finchley. Indeed a lengthy bus, tube or car journey will be required if you live in N2. Somewhat self-defeating, surely. Is this part of the postcode lottery administered by the London Borough of Barnet?

Yours faithfully,
Carmen Stevens,
Address supplied

Riding school remembered

Dear Editor,
Re the article on page 6 of your recent issue on the Vale allotments, the last farm in Finchley, at Strawberry Vale, was in fact run as a riding school by the daughter in law of Evan Evans.

Tessa (Teresa) Evans sadly lost her husband Fred to leukaemia at a young age, leaving a two year old son. Today he is a farrier and works locally (although he lives in Wales, going back to his family roots).

Tessa died a few years back and had a large horsedrawn funeral which came up past the yard before she was laid to rest.

There are still a few of us girls who rode there at that time and have a Facebook page with tons of photos. It was a special place for us all, and dearly remembered.

Yours sincerely,
Julie Newman,
Contact details provided

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.

A reader's bouquet

Dear Editor,
As a regular reader of THE ARCHER I should like to congratulate both you and your staff, all volunteers on an excellent local paper.

It is informative, interesting and well illustrated. I look forward to its publication and send best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Erna Karton
Creswick Walk, NW11

A favourite view of Spain

Muswell Hill artist and teacher Henry Hagger has reached the final of the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition with his painting of the New Bridge at Ronda in southern Spain.



Heat and dust: A watercolour view of Puente Nuevo in southern Spain by Henry Hagger

Henry is fascinated with this view and has also made pictures of it in pastels, in charcoal, as etchings and as lithographs. He loves the contrast between the texture of the rocks and the masonry of the bridge: the hotel perched up above the gorge and the tiny jail in the middle of the bridge.

The shortlisted pictures will be exhibited at the Mall Galleries (close to Trafalgar Square) from 15-20 September. Admission is free. The competition, now in its 26th year, is jointly sponsored by investment advisors Smith & Williamson who will show the pictures in their offices around the country and at Guildford House gallery.

Kay Hurwitz MBE, 18 March 1920 – 2 July 2014

By Thomas Radice

The viola player and teacher Kay Hurwitz, who has died at the age of 94, will be remembered by countless North London parents and their offspring as the leading inspiration behind and a constant presence at the Youth Music Centre (YMC), now in its 48th year, which meets every Saturday morning in Henrietta Barnett School, Hampstead Garden Suburb.

For over 50 years Kay was married to the famous violinist and outstanding chamber musician Emanuel Hurwitz CBE, who died in 2006. For a number of years they lived in Golders Green and Temple Fortune before settling in Finchley Central in 1966.

Born into a musical but hard-up family of three brothers and two sisters, Kay Crome had her first violin lessons at school. She had to leave at 14 to help support the family, working in a lingerie factory but continuing to study the violin in her spare time and playing in various amateur ensembles. At 17 she joined the women's Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS). In 1942 a short-lived marriage to a young major left her penniless and with her baby daughter Jackie to support.

Kay moved into a kind of musicians' commune in Bloomsbury and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. Her early professional career involved a hectic round of freelance work with orchestras such as the Hallé, the Liverpool Philharmonic, Sadlers Wells Opera and the English Chamber Orchestra.

In 1958 she got together with two friends from the RAM to form a music-making group for young children and their mothers, meeting in her house on Saturday mornings. News of this venture soon spread and they had to find larger premises. It was from these modest beginnings that YMC emerged as we know it.

Over the years Kay enlisted the services of many fine players and teachers who took pleasure in teaching young children instrumental skills and chamber and orchestral playing. By the mid-1960s YMC was attracting 200 children every Saturday and had four orchestras, a wind ensemble



and a parents' orchestra. Out-of-town away days and summer schools became a regular feature, including visits to Aldeburgh.

In her mid-seventies Kay retired from direct responsibility as a trustee of YMC but kept up close links with the centre.

Amidst all this activity, Kay was active in organising concerts in her own house and those of others, providing platforms for up and coming artists and raising money for music scholarships, the North London Hospice, Music Aid and other charitable causes.

For her achievements in providing encouragement and opportunities for budding young musicians Kay was made an MBE. She had a unique and enormous enthusiasm for life, enhanced by classic good looks and unflappability, characteristics that stayed with her to the end. As was said at her funeral on 11 July, 'she just made things work.'

Tuesday 30th September | 10.00am until 6.00pm

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