



Letters to the editor



Pile-up: Rubbish in Baronsmere Road

Litter still piling up
Dear Editor,

Barnet Council has failed to properly assess the problem at the corner of Baronsmere Road and the High Road, N2, as highlighted in your last edition by reader Kate Barnett.

The area has indeed become a dumping ground for fly-tipping, an eyesore and a hazard when regularly the large bins and piles of rubbish block the pavement.

The bins are not placed in the widest part of the pavement, as claimed by the council, but rather the narrowest part as there is a tree which significantly reduces the amount of available space.

Bags of rubbish, as well as dumped wood, old cookers and washing machines, chairs, the odd radiator, and even an armchair have been left there and not collected for days on end.

This problem has obvious consequences: as well as hygiene problems, pedestrians are regularly forced to either push past overflowing bins or even step into the road just to get past. I personally have witnessed an elderly resident almost falling over as he struggled with the obstacle course of rubbish and bins.

It would be nice if Barnet Council took this problem seriously and came up with a proper solution. My pictures illustrate the problem, taken on two separate days in one week.

Yours faithfully,
Tristan Kirk,
Address supplied.

Missing mail?

Dear Editor,

I would like your help in making a public enquiry about missing post and whether other local residents are experiencing the same problem. I live locally and

have done so for about 20 years but since January my post has mysteriously been going missing, including books for courses I am doing and other important mail.

I contacted Royal Mail and they said that they had spoken to the local delivery office and that this would be unlikely to be an issue again.

Until last month. When I had to make contact with a sender as I had been waiting for a package for over 20 days and their reply was that this was delivered and had been signed for. Obviously this is a problem I am experiencing and was wondering if anyone else in the community was having the same grievance and how we can get this resolved if this is a problem. I have already contacted Royal Mail regarding my latest missing mail and am yet to hear from them, which obviously means me having to now try and track my package which is turning out to be a real pain.

Yours faithfully,
Jo K,
King Street, N2.

Eagle eyed

Dear Editor,

Talk of the false animals of East Finchley (Letters, *The Archer*, July 2016) reminds me of the eccentric man on the county roads who had a big metallic eagle in the 1980s. He claimed it was to keep rooks away from his damsons, though I never saw much evidence of either.

Someone told me the eagle was later damaged in a dispute with a prominent local character I won't name though some might know who I mean if I say the word "cleft".

Yours faithfully,
Paula Greaves,
Address supplied.

Welcome to N2... but get your facts straight

By Daphne Chamberlain

Times Literary Supplement columnist David Collard visited East Finchley recently. Writing about his visit, he gives a thumbs up for the Phoenix Cinema, with its "baroque" auditorium, usually described as art deco. The station and Archie get a mention, and Black Gull is praised as "one of the very best bookshops in the capital".

In David's words: "That's about it. The place lacks romantic allure." He dismisses N2 with a poem by Julian Stannard: *It's always sunny in East Finchley. It's always funny in East Finchley. That's enough about East Finchley.*

That said, he moves on to what he calls "Finchley proper... a mile to the north-east". Get your maps and compasses out! Why does Mr Collard think we are called East Finchley?

Father and son

He's heading for Avenue House on East End Road, now known as Stephens House and Gardens. He describes this as the former home of Dr Henry Stephens, FRCS, inventor of the celebrated blue-black writing fluid known as Stephens' Ink.

Well, Dr Stephens did invent the famous ink, and he did live in Finchley. However, he died in

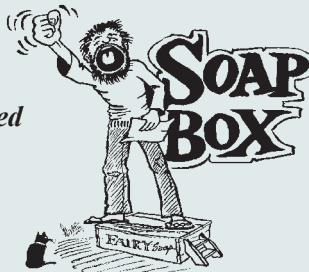
1864, and it was his son, Henry Charles Stephens, who bought Avenue House in 1874. It was Henry Charles, too, who became known as Inky Stephens. He was the businessman who really brought the ink to the world's attention, and also became the local MP.

So, if you read David Collard's blog at <http://bit.ly/29PLE1h>, remember that it

mixes up father and son. To be fair, though, it might tempt people to visit the really interesting little museum about the house, the ink and its uses.

The Collection is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm to 4.30pm at Stephens House and Gardens, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE. More details at www.stephenshouseandgardens.com.

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.



Don't leave it sticking out

By Malcolm Goldstein

What is the connection between information about services provided by builders, decorators, gardeners and minicabs, discount offers from retailers and various eating places, and the security of your home?

Well, think of how much of this information comes to you via leaflets and mail-outs (AKA junk mail) through your front door. Then think again of how many times you notice that these leaflets are left sticking out prominently from the letter box of your front door... a wonderful way of letting potential intruders know that no-one is at home.

As the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for my area I am extremely dismayed at the number of times I have returned home to this precise scenario and also disappointed that for the last two publications *THE ARCHER* has been left protruding through my letterbox.

I have frequently complained to companies who allow this to happen and occasionally spoken to the individuals distributing the items. Unfortunately I am not hopeful that this irritating practice will cease.

So what can be done so as not to compromise the security of our homes? Be a good neighbour and if you see freebies sticking out of your own neighbours' letter boxes then just push them fully through. You could be helping to avoid a possible break-in.

Editor's note: THE ARCHER encourages all its volunteer deliverers to make sure that copies of the newspaper are pushed fully through readers' letterboxes.

Cooking club is back

The Wooden Spoon and Apron Club will be starting its latest set of shared cookery sessions on Thursday 1 September from 5-8pm at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2.

For six weeks, participants will be led by a local 'chef', an experienced home cook, and two sous chefs, to prepare their recipes from Brazil, China, Europe, India, Thailand and Vietnam, and then eat their creations together at the end of the session.

Sessions cost £7.50 each, with participants encouraged to attend as many weeks as they can in order to get a true taste of all these international cuisines. To book your place, please email Lisa on: us@efab.org.uk

Healthy kids' centres

All of Barnet's 10 Children's centres have now been awarded a 'Healthy Children's Centre' special health status to recognise their hard work and dedication in helping to improve the health of children and families in Barnet.

The centres follow a programme based on six key priorities: healthy eating and exercise, oral health, emotional wellbeing, reducing alcohol and substance misuse, smoke-free households, and increased child immunisations.

Stories of the refugees

By Lavina H, Nadir M, Steph K and Charlie M

As part of Refugee Week, year nine students at the Archer Academy met Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, who is the step sister of the famous diarist Anne Frank and who spent time as a refugee in hiding during the Second World War.

Eva spoke to students about her story and emphasised the need for people to be compassionate towards refugees. The students spoke openly about the effect Eva's powerful words had on them. Steph K told her: "I will never forget the story you told us."

Lorin Sulaiman, who arrived in the UK as a Syrian Kurdish refugee in 2002, spoke to year seven pupils about her experiences. Her life changed forever when her brother and father went missing, presumed dead, for their political opposition to the Assad

regime.

Charlie M told Lorin, who now works in human rights law: "You made me think about how lucky we are not having to one day be told to pack what you have and flee your country never to return and be put on a lorry in the darkness not knowing where you are."

Some year eight students were involved with a workshop on refugees with author Miriam Halahamy while year nine students of history visited the Jewish Museum.