



Selling your car could cost more than you think

By Diana Cormack

A few years ago I wrote an article about my daughter receiving a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) despite having parked correctly in a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) with a visitor voucher on display (*THE ARCHER*, August 2009). Being a law-abiding person, she had immediately paid the fine online. However, I wasn't happy with the situation and wanted to know what she had done wrong.

Small print

It transpired that the offence was having a 'For Sale' sign in her car. Barnet Council want to prevent traders, resident or otherwise, from monopolising parking spaces. At the time Barnet said: "We are unaware of any other local authorities which use their powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to combat nuisance for residents of traders using parking places to offer cars for sale."

Whether they are still the only authority to protect its residents in this way I don't know. I do

know now that the conditions of use on the back of our visitor vouchers state at number 5: "It is prohibited to use a vehicle in a parking place in connection with the sale or offering or exposing for sale of goods." This includes the car. Who knew? It just shows that we should always read the small print.

Recently there was a vehicle with a 'For Sale' notice parked in Summerlee Avenue. I called the seller's displayed contact number to warn them of what might happen. Sadly they didn't act fast enough and the follow-

ing day the 'For Sale' signs were accompanied by a PCN. Hopefully they were able to use some other information I had passed on.

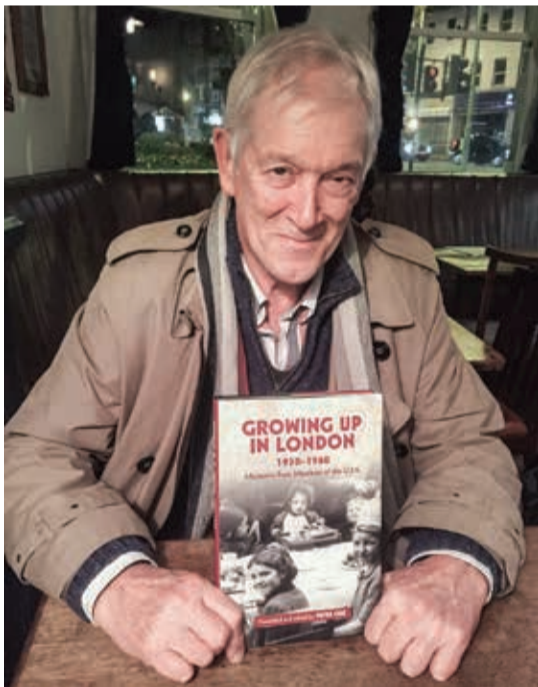
24-hour's notice

Seven years ago the Civil Enforcement Officer was required to place a warning on such cars to give a 24-hour opportunity for the signs to be removed. As the correct procedures had not been followed, Barnet refunded my daughter with the £50 she had paid. At the time of writing *THE ARCHER* was waiting to hear if this ruling still stands.

Everyday experiences that made a generation

By John Lawrence

Scores of books have been written about the seismic social and political changes that battered Britain as the Great Depression in the 1930s was followed by world war in the 1940s and then by a desperate struggle to recover in the 1950s.



Times of change: Peter Cox

of course, didn't know any other life, so the book is full of humorous insights mixed with the traumatic experiences that were part of everyday existence. Peter puts their memories centre-stage throughout, taking a back seat as narrator and letting their words speak for themselves.

Two of his interviewees live in East Finchley. One recalls his time

"I was a loner. At home I used to retreat to the outside lav so that I could have a bit of my own space and read in peace. My mother told me if I didn't stop reading my eyeballs would fall out."

"We weren't short of food but it was things that would mystify people today, like sugar or mashed potato sandwiches."

"I was never frightened. A few days before, my mother told us there would be a war, and said a siren would sound if we were going to be bombed. I heard a lawnmower in the grounds of Alexandra Palace and thought that was it."

"I vividly remember the day my school friend Willie Mather wasn't at his desk. He'd been killed the night before when a bomb hit his house."

"I delivered evening papers from Brysons. I got 1/9 a week for six evenings, and collected my pay on Saturday morning. I bought the bike for 3/6 from James & Adams in the High Road."

But what was everyday life like for the children and young people living through those decades? That's what East Finchley author Peter Cox set out to explore in his new book *Growing Up in London, 1930-1960*.

Using the University of the Third Age network that spans London (and indeed much of the UK), Peter found more than a hundred people born between 1920 and 1939 who were willing to talk about their early lives.

Coping with change

"This was my parents' generation and their stories haven't always been told," says Peter, who was born in 1945. "I was interested in the transitions they had to live through; how they coped with going to school, being evacuated, or with the rationing that continued well into the 1950s."

Many of these young people,

as a pupil at Finchley County School, where there were some 300-350 boys: "The school stayed during the war. The LCC evacuated you only if you were south of Archway. There was almost total silence about the war at school, just occasionally broken, as when the French teacher came in one morning to say they've bombarded Le Havre."

Growing Up in London is available online from www.gruil.co.uk or you can order in person from Peter on 020 8883 6952. He is offering the hardback half price at £10 and will even throw in free delivery in N2.

Voices of those who grew up in London

"My father made toys, a fort for me, a garage or aerodrome for John. On Christmas morning: 'Here are your presents, don't touch them till the paint's dry.'"

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Out of print

Once upon a time, when everyone over the age of three wore a hat, people read newspapers. Even children had their comics and women had magazines that told them that they could win the man of their dreams with a new set of curtains and a decorative display of cocktail sausages.

Back then newspapers were different. They were big enough to hide a whole family behind. You could even tell what sort of man a man was by the paper he read. The Times meant he ran the country, the Manchester Guardian that he thought he should run the country and the Daily Telegraph that the country had been going to the dogs ever since Queen Victoria died.

But the rot, as far as Fleet Street is concerned, has well and truly set in. When did it start? Was it somewhere between the Lady Chatterley Trial and the Beatles' first LP or when the Times started putting news on its front page? Was it later when mad Murdoch turned the Sun into a tabloid and put bare-breasted women on page three?

Battered by such new-fangled ideas as news on television, newspapers have made valiant attempts to stem the tide. They got smaller, stopped blackening your hands and discovered that things, including the bare-breasted women on page three, look better in colour. There was even an attempt to launch a new, quality, daily paper that answered to no one and was called The Independent. It was even successful and independent for a while.

But no more. Now everything is digital and on your phone. No more can you hide behind acres of newsprint on the 8.17 from Sidcup to Waterloo; instead you can track the delays on your Eyefone and send instatweets. And at the end of this month the Independent will disappear into the digital ether. Not even Clark Kent can save it, not least because he won't be able to find a phone box and that means he can't change into Superman or save the world. So why not buy a paper, it may be your last chance.



Foxes have rush hours too!

Foxes can often be spotted doing their rounds in the hours of darkness but reader Helen Barrett was astonished to see this one slap bang in the middle of morning rush hour outside the tube station.

As she snatched these photos at 8.55am one morning in early February, the animal dodged commuters and ran past the traffic queuing up the High Road. Whatever it managed to scavenge it must have been daylight robbery.

Hard to see a dentist

Research by Healthwatch Barnet has shown that over a third of dentists in Barnet cannot currently offer an NHS appointment to adults and a quarter could not offer an appointment to a child.

In a mystery shopping exercise carried out in December 2015 and January 2016, volunteers from Healthwatch Barnet called all 53 practices who offer NHS dentistry in the borough.

Michael Rich, Head of Healthwatch Barnet said: "Local residents had told us that they had experienced difficulties in booking an NHS appointment. This

research seems to show us why." Healthwatch Barnet will be doing further research into the availability of dental appointments across the Borough and would like to hear about your experience. They would also like to hear from dentists with their thoughts on what could be done to solve the problem. Email info@healthwatchbarnet.co.uk

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