



Letters to the editor

Welcoming atmosphere
Dear Editor,

Like Caroline and David Broome in the last issue I think that the Oasis restaurant on Church Lane is a welcome addition to the East Finchley community. I particularly wanted to write as I am both a resident of Leopold Road and a parent at Martin School so wanted to correct any impression that those two groups are united in opposition to it.

The restaurant itself is beautifully decorated, has great food and a number of very positive recent online reviews. In the daytime there is minimal, if any, shisha smoking and this is confined to specific areas. It is very hard to see any major impact of this on children at Martin School.

The restaurant is actually family friendly and, as a non-smoking health professional, I have taken my young children there and had them entranced by the owner's parrot and the Aladdin's cave-like atmosphere. I am not unique in this and have seen a number of other families with young children and babies inside.

Certainly, it seems odd that there is significant opposition to Oasis, when there was less to the Alexandra pub, which was far noisier and smokier with its drunk regulars and distinctly unwelcoming atmosphere.

Yours faithfully,
Joshua Stott,
Leopold Road, N2.

We dread this development

Dear Editor,

Following the article in the last Archer I am writing about plans for a block of flats behind Viceroy Parade. This will remove the busy pay & display shoppers' car park. None of the flats will be social housing, all eight are to be small, expensive, executive flats.

We, along with residents of surrounding roads and local shoppers, are dismayed at the thought of more traffic, disruption and congestion right on their doorstep with fewer spaces to park, losing approximately 20% of all the pay and display spaces offered locally. This will severely impact upon residents' parking spaces, particularly those in Beresford Road, Market Place, Kitchener Road and that end of East End Road.

There is no provision for Budgens or Amy's deliveries. These will have to be to the front which will cause major congestion to the already heavily utilised High Road. Only Iceland will have a very narrow delivery space behind its shop.

If we don't raise our voices this will be win, win for the council as they reap huge fees from the development and increased parking fine revenues from local residents and shoppers unable to park.

Construction will be over the summer with huge dust pollution expected and noise as they dig foundations. The construction will further exacerbate congestion at the already busy High Road/East End Road junction.

We urge local residents to comment, ask questions and be vocal.
Yours faithfully,
Lisa King,
Beresford Avenue, N2.

Big brands are already here

Dear Editor,

I note Ms Chinyoka's letter from the previous issue that protests against the opening of a Sainsbury's in the area. She doesn't want the "big brands" in East Finchley and "shudders" to think what would happen to Budgens and Iceland if Sainsbury's arrived.

Please note that Budgens and Iceland's combined turnover runs into the billions. Make no mistake, the "big brands" are already here, they're just not the ones that provide any variety. Both these supermarkets offer comparable, budget options and suffer from a complete lack of high-quality food. I find it baffling that so many residents are happy for these shops to exist yet fight tooth and nail to stop businesses like Waitrose and Sainsbury's from bringing some much-needed variety to the area. I fully support Ms Chinyoka's defence of the "smaller independent shops" but must challenge the assertion that the large-scale supermarket chains which already exist in the area are in need of resident protection and intervention. East Finchley deserves more than a choice between Budgens and Iceland.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

Parking common sense
Dear Editor,

As a retired local government transportation officer, I am astonished and appalled at Barnet Council's attitude to Eva Frost coming by car to visit her sister in Park Hall Road N2, which is in a Controlled Parking Zone (*THE ARCHER*, February 2016).

A Civil Enforcement officer gave her a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) even though both women shouted to him that they were bringing down a visitor's voucher. Barnet rejected her appeal on the grounds that legally "this is an instant contravention and no minimum observation is required before a PCN can be issued."

Whatever happened to common sense or common courtesy? An adjudicator found in Ms Frost's favour, concluding that a motorist is allowed time to obtain and display a visitor parking permit, a conclusion grudgingly accepted by the council.

Sadly, Barnet has a history of rigidity on parking matters, e.g. switching to paying for permitted parking by mobile phone only, even though not every motorist has one.

Park Hall Road is in the CPZ between Fortis Green and Cherry Tree Wood. It is residents only, six days a week, Mon – Sat 10am to 6.30pm. Local people tried to get these onerous restrictions lifted, which affect businesses as well as residents, to no avail.

I myself wrote at least twice to Council Leader Richard Cornelius, asking that the times be changed to one hour a day Mon-Fri, as in the county roads north of Fortis Green, which has deterred all-day parkers without harming local interests. So far, there has been no change.

Yours faithfully,
Eugene Myerson
Address supplied.

Mary Davidson,
1927 – 2016

Mary Davidson was born in Aveton Road, East Finchley, a road that no longer exists due to bomb damage in the Second World War. She went to Holy Trinity School, then situated in East End Road, and her family later moved to the High Road.

Mary, nee Ellen, was sister to three brothers who all served in the war, and remembered her late teens as nights spent in the Anderson shelter with plenty of good times and romance. She worked in the laboratories at Gilbey's Distillery in Camden after the war.

In 1947 Mary married George Louth, who used to frequent The George pub in Market Place. They set up home in Kitchener Road and had seven



'Local girl: Mary Davidson'

children there and another son after moving out to New Barnet.

She later married her former wartime sweet heart William King Davidson, but had to travel all the way to Adelaide in Australia to do this, her first ever time on an aeroplane. Still later in life, Mary moved out of London to live in Frinton-on-Sea.

Her youngest son Mick said his mother always spoke fondly of growing up in East Finchley. Her parents Henry and Emily Ellen had moved into the area at the end of the 19th century.

He said: "I only wish I'd listened more to her tales and her knowledge of history when she was with us. We felt it was fitting to have her funeral at Hendon Cemetery where her parents are both buried and used the local funeral directors Luck & Sons as she spoke of them and they showed me the logs for her parents' funeral. We scattered her ashes where her parents lie."

Parks and recycling

Barnet residents are being encouraged to have their say in two public consultations that will shape the future of some of the most important services in the borough.

The Draft Municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy looks at how the council can manage its waste up to 2030. The Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy addresses how the council will maintain the quality of its green spaces in the years to come.

Both Strategies were agreed at Barnet Council's Environment Committee Meeting on Monday 11 January. Residents can comment and give their views on both, however, in online consultations at www.engage.barnet.gov.uk. The consultations will close 13 March.



Finishing line: Amelia Meldau at the end of a 10K run last year

Amelia takes on the Marathon

It's that time of year again when runners are at the peak of their training for the London Marathon. Amelia Meldau, of Park Hall Road, is one of them and is running the course to raise money for Anti-Slavery International.

The charity was founded in 1839 but Amelia believes the fight against slavery is just as important today; think about child labour, bonded labour, descent-based slavery, trafficking, forced marriage, and slavery in the food chains of what we eat and what we wear.

To support Amelia's Marathon run on 24 April, visit www.justgiving.com/marathonmilly or you can text WHBU61 £5 or WHBU61 £10 to 70070.



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