



Letters



Good old days: Sippy Azizollah performing at the Bunjies club in the 1970s

Remembering Sippy Dear Editor,

I was most sad to read in THE ARCHER of the passing of Sippy Azizollah. I first came across Sippy when I was in my twenties as a frequent visitor to Bunjies in Soho where she performed as a member of the audience and then as a floor singer.

I still can recall how much the audience loved her and her performances there. Her songs weren't all about serious stuff, some were very funny. Sippy had a great sense of humour. Bunjies was a very cool place to be hanging around in the 70s and folk personalities who performed there included Al Stewart, Paul Simon, Donovan, Bert Jansch, Long John Baldry, Sandy Denny, Dave Cousins (of The Strawbs) and even Bob Dylan.

On a visit to London apparently Dylan happened to hear the music coming from the cellar, headed for the entrance and was told he'd have to pay to get in. So Dylan pays and though he does a few songs later doesn't get his money back.

Ten years ago I happened to be walking along East End Road and coming towards me I saw a familiar face. Could this be the Sippy Azizollah who I used to watch as a member of the audience singing and playing the guitar at Bunjies? Yes, it was. So we reminisced over the good old days and to my delight she said she would let me keep a copy of the official limited edition Bunjies Coffee House LP that includes not only a concert of professional music but audience involvement recreating the ultimate and unique atmosphere of the cellar itself.

One of the tracks on it is 'YOU' (vocal and guitar, Sippy; vocal harmony and guitar, Jez Wenham), an unabashed love song. Amongst other artists' photographs on the reverse of the album sleeve is that of the young Sippy herself. How time flies. Needless to say the album is one of my most treasured possessions.

Sippy will indeed be sadly missed but her memory will live on through her music and the good deeds that she did.

Yours faithfully, Derek Harris, Address supplied.

Animal statues Dear Editor,

I think your correspondent asking about large animal statues in the area may be thinking of the massive sandstone owl which stood just off the High Road for many years and was called Huxtable for reasons I don't know.

It fell over in 1981 and the head came off. I remember it well as it was the year of the royal wedding and I had broken my leg!

Yours faithfully, Peter Lobe, Address supplied.

Signs of trouble Dear Editor,

We have noticed some shops on the High Road in East Finchley have taken to placing a few rather large cumbersome advertising swing-type obstacles all across the breadth of the pavement. These constrict flow considerably. The pavement does not appear to have any kind of property outline of any rights of way for the placement of these huge things and I wonder why this is being allowed. It is making it awkward to pass with our baby in the buggy and our toddler alongside. Can we all place these large obstacles in front of our premises I wonder, as I have one I would like to add outside my property?

Yours faithfully, Josh King, Address supplied.

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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.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

Crèche and Sunday School during service Wheelchair access

For more information please contact the Church Office Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke) www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk

Visitors always welcome



Pushing boundaries: Gabriella's designs. Photo Carl Ryan

Fashion with a darker edge

Designer Gabriella Gambetta showed her collection at the Millennium Hotel in Mayfair during London Fashion Week last month. Her designs were based on the famous Bodies exhibition created by Gunther von Hagens in which he displayed plasticised versions of human anatomy.

Gabriella, 29, pictured right, who grew up and still lives in East Finchley, said: "My work is relatively dark. I am truly passionate about creating and pushing the boundaries of fashion. I don't believe in following trends. I like to see fashion as a form of art and

expression."

It was a second appearance at London Fashion Week for Gabriella and the House of Ikons show she took part in raised money for The Prince's Trust. Follow her on Facebook and Instagram at Gabriella Gambetta Fashion.



Douglas Turner

The family of Douglas Frank Turner, who died on 3 September, have asked us to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all the residents of the Strawberry Vale estate who attended his funeral and say they are grateful for the floral tributes. His sons and daughters say he will be sadly missed by everyone.

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.



Tube noise has us all screaming

By Tessa Campos

I've lived behind Cherry Tree Wood for 23 years. A prime location in estate agent speak. A peaceful oasis, just 20 minutes by tube into central London. Indeed it is, was, a peaceful oasis. Sounds of birdsong, children playing in the park, the gentle chug-chug of the Tube. I love to see the lights of the Tube disappearing into the tunnel on winter nights. Familiar and comforting sights and sounds.

Until a Sunday morning three weeks ago when I was awoken by a strange, screeching noise. A child's toy in the park, I thought. Then it came again and again. A car or house alarm, I thought. After some time and frustrated efforts to go back to sleep I had the awful realisation that the noise was, in fact, the southbound Tube as it sped up before entering the tunnel.

Over the next couple of days we exclaimed every time we heard it: "It's awful, I can't stand it", and tried to reassure each other that surely it would go away.

Days later, no improvement. In the station I asked a TfL staff member about it. I was not, she told me, the first person to complain. She took my details and said she would pass my concerns on. I took to social media to try to get an answer. None forthcoming, only similar tales of woe from further up the line.

Eventually I filled in the online complaint form, which elicited the following (abridged) response:

"The screeching is a result of smoothing down the tracks to prepare for the upcoming Night Tube Service. While smoothing the tracks does alleviate noise and vibration levels in the long term, a temporary consequence is a short period of noise immediately after the work is carried out. However, this normally subsides within a few weeks."

How many weeks is a few? After three weeks I am still woken in the morning and find getting to sleep difficult. The event I was hugely looking forward to, the Night Tube, I am now dreading.

If you too have been affected by the noise you will find TfL's contact details online at http://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/