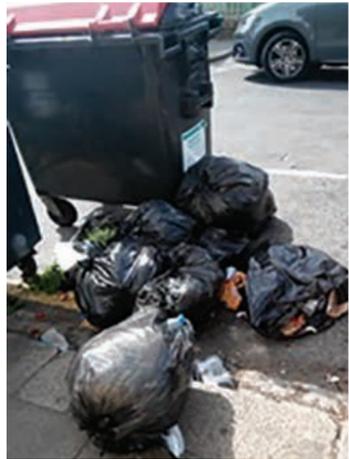




Letters



In the gutter: Rubbish piles in Baronsmere Road

Rubbish in the road

Dear Editor,

Regarding the bins cluttering the pavement on Baronsmere Road, I couldn't resist sending you a photo of Barnet Council's 'brilliant' solution to the rubbish-cluttered pavement. They have moved the bins and rubbish to the road, inside a parking space, with the ever-continuing awfulness of mess and unsanitary conditions.

I have written to them, suggesting they spend more time (and our council tax) on a rather more carefully thought-out solution to the problem of business rubbish collection... but in the meantime you might like to share the 'progress' of the issue with your readers!

Yours faithfully, Nicola Scott, by email.

Strange grip on reality

Dear Editor,

"With our exit from the European Union a reality..." said The Archer on page 9 in its August edition (Brexit: What Britain should do next).

Our exit is very far from a reality. Even if we proceed on the basis of a very flawed referendum result where under 38% of the electorate voted for Brexit, the 'leave' movement have yet to justify or prove their claims, which every expert from the head of the Bank of England to the President of the United States have said are false. In three years Boris and friends have managed to prove half of what they claimed, then, and only then, should we start thinking of life outside Europe. This is sloppy journalism and a real shame that a paper like THE ARCHER should support the myth that it is all over. This is just the beginning of a fight to prove that American-owned newspapers, racist bigots, and liars do not, and will not, rule our country.

Yours faithfully, Alan Paterson, by email.

Valuable habitat

Dear Editor,

I was horrified to read your article in the August edition regarding removing the scrub and raising the canopy in Cherry Tree Wood. Removing this valuable habitat will severely compromise an already fragile bird population in the wood. Important nesting and roosting sites removed casually, it seems without any conservation advice.

I know that there have been problems in the park this summer but feel this is an ill-considered knee jerk response from Barnet Council and the police.

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.

I spoke to Tracy Sawyer at Barnet Council who has reassured me that not all the scrub is being reduced in the wood.

Apparently the path from the High Road entrance to your right, which I admit is overgrown, will be widened and the sight line raised. However all the scrub from the playground down to the start of the wood will be left. There will be a clearance of the scrub behind the picnic area and a reduction of the hedge bordering it.

Barnet Council has assured me that it is no more than the coppicing which was done regularly until about five years ago. I must thank Barnet for a speedy response to my moan.

Yours faithfully, Fenella Reed, by email.

Lumps and litter

Dear Editor,

Well done to Barnet Council for remedying the dreadful lumpy pavement on the approach to the cemetery in the High Road (pictured). And am I just imagining it, but is there less litter on the High Road?

I doubt that the threat of an £80 littering fine has brought about such dramatic change. The cynic in me thinks that this may be a council ploy to make visible improvements to the street environment, thus diverting attention from cuts elsewhere.

Having lived in the Borough of Wandsworth when it turned from Labour to Conservative, you can't underestimate the power of pink pavements and metal bollards as a way of persuading the middle class that all is well with the world. Next council target: overhanging hedges that encroach on pavements?

Yours faithfully, Roger Beeson, by email.



Smoothed out: The new pavement near the cemetery

Sippy Azizollah: one of a kind

Sippy Azizollah, who died in June, was a good friend to everyone at THE ARCHER and well-known around East Finchley. Here we pay tribute to a remarkable lady.

Our friend Sippy

By Diana Cormack

'Sippy of East Finchley' was a name familiar to many fans of LBC radio in the late 1990s, particularly on Clive Bull's late night phone-in programme where she was a regular contributor. Daphne Chamberlain and I were determined to track her down for an ARCHER article. But in a way, Sippy found us.

I was delivering the paper one Sunday afternoon when a voice behind me said, "Can I have one of those?" It came from a lady in a wheelchair. When I asked where she lived, it turned out that Daphne had given a talk at her Fairacres home in East End Road that very week, where she had distributed copies of THE ARCHER. Typically, Sippy had been "out and about doing things".

I asked her name and my reaction must have been heard up and down the High Road as I yelled, "Not Sippy of East Finchley?!"

It was a fitting title, for Sippy became such a well-known and much loved character in the area. She began suggesting ideas for

the newspaper about local things which annoyed or interested her.

But it was her fundraising activities which were most reported on. These were not confined to Lupus UK, a disease she was subject to, but to a variety of charities for which she raised thousands of pounds,



Sippy, pictured on her 60th birthday in 2011

often with the great support of our local Budgens store.

We wrote about her art exhibitions, her links with the Kinks, her problems as a wheelchair user, and much more. Search for her name on our website at www.the-archer.co.uk to discover how much she was involved with.

Sippy had so many lives

By Daphne Chamberlain

Sypora Azizollah was born in Windhoek, western South Africa, in 1951. The Azizollahs, originally from Persia, had previously lived in Palestine and England, where Sippy's father served in the RAF during the Second World War. Recently I was honoured to help Sippy transcribe her late father's autobiography. He was a remarkable man.

The family moved back to London when she was eight, settling in Southgate and Cockfosters. Sippy trained as a nursery nurse and also worked at Jones Brothers, the fondly-remembered John Lewis store at Holloway.

However, her abiding love was for music. She won a song-writing competition, and was a resident singer in the 1970s at Bunjie's Club in Soho. Gareth Brown, who now lives in East Finchley, worked there. He remembers her as "The ruling queen of Saturday night: a young girl with a big voice, as soft as it was strong, as bold as it was gentle, and so loud at its height that it could travel from the cellar club and out into the street.

"Sippy loved singing; folk, pop, rock. And wow, could she command a room! I can hear her even now singing songs she made her own, like her beloved Ray Davies' Too Much on My Mind, Cat Stevens The First Cut is the Deepest, and her



Sippy, performing with Russ Shipton at the Bunjies Club

very own Mine is the Sunlight, which you can still hear her sing on YouTube under: Zippy-Mine is the Sunlight."

By the way, offstage she was definitely Sippy with an S!

Her friend Karen remembers record companies giving her some interesting names, for example, Pamela Nightingale and Layla Arizona, and she had several of her songs published or covered by artists in the UK, US and elsewhere.

Sippy was also successful as a singer in advertising, and as a re-creator of other people's voices.

Her love of entertainment and performing stayed with her. We worked together on a couple of playwriting projects, though "worked" is a bit misleading, as we were usually in fits of laughter, when not discussing many different things. I will always remember how often she greeted me with: "I've had a great idea!"

Sippy was starting on a play for artsdepot at the time of her passing, as well as planning

another art exhibition and sale of her own cards.

Though she missed living in East Finchley, her health had made it necessary for her to move to Lady Sarah Cohen House, Friern Barnet, after a long spell in hospital.

Her sister Hannah observed: "Increasingly since February she had got busier and involved. Her mood and optimism had begun to soar. This fooled some of us into thinking her underlying health issues were improving, but sadly that was not the case."

In her funeral eulogy, Hannah said: "She had so many lives with so many people. Nobody knows, or could ever know, the full person that she was. There are certain things we all know about her; her generosity, enthusiasm, fun, musical and artistic talents; and she was an amazing friend. She was one of a kind, and idiosyncratic in a delightful way."

All of us at The Archer send our condolences to Hannah, her brother Joseph, and all Sippy's family.

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