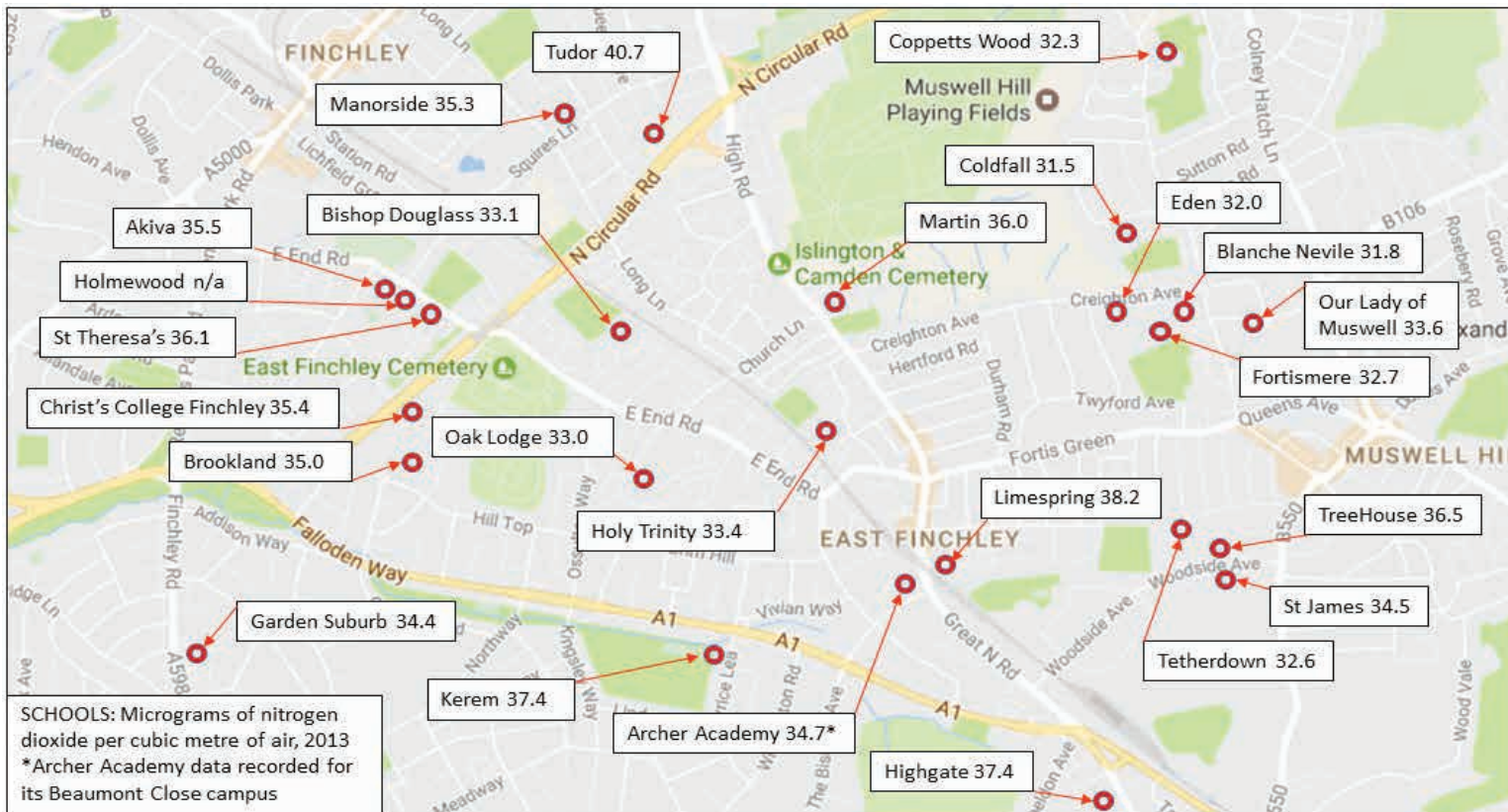




Air pollution levels around our schools



Crossing needed at 'danger spot'?

By Janet Maitland
We reported in our March edition that 96-year-old Daphne Edwards died from her injuries after she was in an accident with a car as she crossed a busy stretch of the A1 at the crossroads with Ossulton Way and Lyttelton Road in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Mrs Edwards was crossing, as many other people do, at the intersection of the roads where there are no pedestrian lights. There is a pedestrian crossing at the Market Place in Falloden Way, on the other side of Ossulton Way, but there is nothing to stop you crossing where Mrs Edwards did.

Shortly after the accident, two people commented on Facebook that they had complained to Barnet Council about this crossing in the past. "It's inherently dangerous," said one. "There are alternative crossing points, but the road layout allows pedestrians to cross the A1 here, and so they do. Now, tragically, someone has died."

Response from TfL

Barnet Council told us Transport for London (TfL) is responsible for arterial routes like the A1, not the council. TfL said there had been one serious personal injury involving a pedestrian being hit by a vehicle while crossing the road at this spot, in 2011, and one other fatality, in 2006. The police told us that between January 2010 and August 2016 there had been 10 personal injury collisions, one of which was serious.

"Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the woman who sadly died on Lyttelton Road in February," said Nigel Harvey, TfL's Head of Road Space Management. "Any death or serious injury is a tragedy, which is why we're developing a 'Vision Zero' approach to reducing road danger."

"Recently we reduced the speed along Lyttelton Road at this junction from 40mph to 30mph. We take into account a range of factors when deciding whether to install a four way pedestrian crossing. These include the number of collisions resulting in a fatality or serious injury, traffic and pedestrian flows and the layout of the junction."

Tell us your experiences of crossing at this junction and any other spots where pedestrians are at a disadvantage against the traffic. Email: the-archer@line-one.net or write to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Levels of air pollution have received a lot of exposure in recent months, particularly those around the capital's schools, with the release of studies and sometimes daily air-quality alerts by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan.

Fifteen schools in Barnet have been found to be in locations where levels of the toxic pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO2) breach the EU legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre of air. One of them is Tudor Primary School in Queen's Road, N3.

Pollution levels for all schools in East Finchley were below the legal limit, as our map shows, and we have also

listed our closest schools in Haringey, Hampstead Garden Suburb and Highgate, but campaigners argue that traffic emissions still need to be curbed to drive pollution levels down further.

The map uses the latest available figures from 2013 compiled by Aether and Kings College London for the Greater London Authority and published by The Guardian.

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The joy of learning

Retired and semi-retired people are being invited to sign up for a new branch of the University of the Third Age based in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

With an official name of HGS U3A, it will be part of a national network of such groups that give members the chance to pick up knowledge or to learn skills from their fellow members. There are no restrictions on age but the 'third age' is defined as anyone no longer in full-time employment.

At a packed launch meeting in March, people came forward with suggestions for interest groups or activities including bridge, chess, dance, lawn bowls, patchwork quilting, walking, poetry and reading.

Spokesman Mike Franklin said: "The purpose of the U3A is for retired and semi-retired people to come together and learn, not for qualifications but for the sheer joy of discovery. We are confident a vibrant community will soon be up and running."

New members will be able to sign up at a meeting in the Free Church Hall, Central Square, NW11, from 10am to 1pm on Thursday 18 May. Activities are likely to start in the autumn. If you are interested in running a group send an email with details to groups@hgsu3a.uk.

Stone setting for Sippy

Readers who knew the late Sippy Azizollah, who sadly passed away last June, may like to know that there is to be a stone setting ceremony at her grave.

It will take place on Sunday 21 May at 11am in the Woodland Cemetery (Cheshunt), Western Cemetery, Bulls Cross Ride, Cheshunt, Herts, EN7 5HT. Please note that it is not customary to bring flowers as the grave will have been planted.

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