



Zebra crossing is “too dangerous”

By John Lawrence

A pedestrian crossing on the busy route between East Finchley and Muswell Hill is dangerous to use, say residents, and they are calling for better safety measures to be installed.

Karyn Johnstone is one of those leading a petition calling on Haringey Council to slow traffic and install improved lighting at the crossing close to the Muswell Hill end of Fortis Green, near the junction with Twyford Avenue.

“Drivers are taking advantage of the straight road and driving at an unacceptable speed during the day and particularly at night. It is particularly treacherous when it is raining or icy,” she said.

Fortis Green, where the speed limit is 30mph, is well used by schoolchildren, dog walkers and all ages of pedestrians. The campaigners say the crossing is often hard to spot from a driver’s point of view and people have been knocked down using it.

Their petition requests traffic calming measures, including speed cameras, and low-level lighting to illuminate the crossing, making it more visible. They cite good lighting at a pedestrian crossing round the corner in Tetherdown as an example of what could be done. Find the petition at www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mge-PetitionDisplay.aspx?id=69

Their campaign coincides with calls from parents and staff at Martin Primary in East Finchley for better safety measures at the High Road crossing outside their school following an accident involving a father and his young daughter. A zebra crossing at the East Finchley end of Fortis Green, close to the junction with Durham Road, was installed nearly 20 years ago following

a campaign by people living nearby. Pedestrian Maria Bus-sandri had been killed in a hit and run collision with a motor-bike, the second accident on that stretch of road in three years.

School seeks new chair of governors

The governing body at the Archer Academy are inviting applications for the role of chair of governors, following current leader Avis Johns’ decision to step down at the end of this academic year after six years in the role.

Headteacher Lucy Harrison said: “Avis is well known in the community as the driving force behind the Archer Academy, and her amazing energy and unstinting support have been a critical factor in our success as a school.”

Bryan Marcus, the governing body’s co-vice chair, said: “We are looking for a successor who has a passion for delivering the school’s vision, improving outcomes for our students, and contributing to the wider community. It’s a demanding, but extremely rewarding, voluntary role.”

Details of how to apply, as well as further information about the role, can be found in the Governors section of the Join Us pages at <http://thearcheracademy.org.uk>. The deadline for applications is 22 April, with the school aiming to appoint a chair-elect before the end of May.

We’ll miss you so much, Miss

By Rachel Ellis

Ballet teacher Marjorie Millons has said a sad farewell to her pupils after an amazing 63 years of dance classes in East Finchley. Hundreds of local children, their children and grandchildren have passed through her doors to learn how to dance over the decades.



Treasured teacher: Miss Millons with one of her students, Kate Amos. Photo Rachel Ellis.

Known to her pupils as Miss Millons, she has taught everyone from toddlers to teenagers in her long career and, in recent years, ran classes for adults on a Saturday morning.

For the first 23 years she taught at Holy Trinity Church and for the last 40 years has been based at the Methodist Church on the High Road.

Retiring from teaching...

Marjorie, 82, decided to retire after suffering health problems last year. Her last adult class was on Saturday 23

March, and the last children’s class was a week later.

“It’s time for me to retire but I will miss it dreadfully,” said Marjorie. “Ballet has been part of my life since I was four and has kept me going all these years.”

“I started out with three pupils and since then hundreds of children have attended my classes over the years. I am still in touch with one of my first pupils and she must be about 70 now.”

...but not from dancing

However, it’s not the end of Marjorie’s dancing life. “I intend to keep dancing when I can. It’s good therapy,” she said. And ballet classes will continue at the Methodist Church with Felicity. Rosie Margree, 18, from Bedford Road, who has been attending classes since she was three and has just taken her grade 7 exam, said: “Miss Millons is a constant strong presence. You really want to do well and try hard to please her, but also feel able to ask her for help. I’ll miss her loads.”

Arrest after man stabbed on bus

By Janet Maitland

A 17-year-old boy has been charged with attempted murder after a man was stabbed on a 134 bus travelling down Colney Hatch Lane in Muswell Hill on a Saturday afternoon. Police and the London Ambulance Service were called to the scene at about 4.45pm on Saturday 9 March and found a 19-year-old man with a stab wound in his chest. He was taken to an east London hospital by Air Ambulance where his condition was later described as ‘critical but stable’.

In a crackdown on knife crime, Barnet police were given 12 hours of temporary extra powers starting at 3pm on Sunday 10 March. These extra powers, sanctioned by section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, allowed them to stop and search people and vehicles without reasonable grounds to suspect they were carrying weapons. Additional officers were also deployed in the operation.

The suspect was arrested over the same weekend and

formally charged on Monday 11 March.

How to help or be helped

Detective Sergeant Jon Deans appealed for anyone who witnessed the incident or has information to call 101 quoting reference number 5259/9MAR or tweet @MetCC. If you want to pass on information

anonymously, you can also call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or go online at www.fearless.org.

If you need help or information to support someone you suspect is involved in knife crime, or if you need assistance yourself, then go to www.knifefree.co.uk and www.london.gov.uk/content/london-needs-you-alive

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