



Ho, ho, how to avoid buying more plastic this festive season

Maxine Klein, from No2PlasticsN2, has some planet-saving tips for present buyers. **Christmas is coming and the stores are getting glittery. Having worked with the campaign No2Plastics for some time, I despair at the amount of surplus tinsel, unnecessary packaging and plastic goods on sale. I imagine, in my Scrooge-like way, how full the bins will be after Christmas, with waste and plastic that will never decompose.**

People say that our contribution is a drop in the ocean but our philosophy at No2Plastics is that small measures can have an effect. Enough drops of water accumulated can produce a torrent. So, how to minimise this threat to our environment?

Starting with wrapping paper, I have for some time used the centre photo page of The Guardian (other newspapers can be used) to wrap presents, tied with string instead of plastic ribbons. Many recipients brand me as an eccentric but they did anyway.

Ideas for presents and stocking fillers

- For those who have been using plastic coffee capsules for their coffee machines I've discovered a reusable version that is compatible with a Nespresso machine, which can be ordered from evergreen-capsules.com.
- A nice bar of soap as an alternative to soap dispensers, or a soap alternative to shampoo.
- My grandchildren will get steel straws to use instead of plastic ones. Any toys will be those that last, such as Lego, and not novelties that are broken and thrown away before Christmas dinner.
- All the friends whom I ever visit are given a packet of reusable plastic food covers to use instead of cling film and this will be a present for the friends who have not yet received one.
- Amy's in the High Road have lovely string bags in which to put loose fruit, as well as a selection of bamboo bowls, cutlery and water bottles. They also have collapsible plastic coffee cups, although I prefer my lovely metal cup for coffee. Merry Christmas, one and all, from No2PlasticsN2.

Christmas concert

Chamber choir Voxcetera is staging its annual Christmas concert on Saturday 7 December, this year in Hornsey Parish Church.

The evening will include traditional carols and sacred music, as well as popular secular seasonal songs. Concertgoers will also be invited to raise the roof by joining in with a couple of carols.

The concert at the parish church (St Mary with St George) in Cranley Gardens, N10, starts at 7.30pm and refreshments will be available. Tickets priced £20, £16, £14 (under 18s half price on top two bands) are available from voxcetera.co.uk.

A useful way to recycle this newspaper

By Mary Poulter, East Finchley Open Artists basket maker **Making containers from copies of The Archer and any other newspaper is a good way to recycle paper and avoid buying plastic. The containers are fairly strong and can be used to store dry produce from the garden or items in your workroom.**

Newspaper pots can also be used for growing seedlings. Take care when transferring them to the final garden spot as the bottoms will be soggy, but the whole container can be safely put in the ground so there is less root disturbance. Inks used for printing are water-based and thus fine for composting.

To make a container all you need is lots of newspaper pages folded neatly into 2-3cm strips



Put to good use: How your paper basket could look.

and a wooden block or a strong cardboard box; 15cm x 15cm x 25cm works well. Use tacks, drawing pins or clothes pegs to secure the work as you weave. Simple and satisfying.

Pop in to the pop-up

Local artists, designers and traders are coming together for a pop-up Christmas sale of ceramics, glassware, gifts, cards and present ideas in the High Road, N2. Their festive gift market takes place on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December at the Offshoot Gallery and Studio space, close to the junction with Bedford Road.

Artists and makers having stalls at the event include Anita Mangan, Matilda Harrison, Chris Stayrou, Brigitte Herod and Intrepid Hound. Other gifts on offer will be original artwork, skincare, pet products, jewellery, books, wrapping paper and cards.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Church of England
35a Durham Road, East Finchley, London N2 9DP

Christmas Services

Sunday 22nd December

Get in the mood for Christmas!!
6.30 pm Christmas Carol Service
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Children's Christmas Service with Carols
11.30 pm Sung Midnight Mass
with Blessing of the Crib
followed by wine and mince pies

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day
followed by refreshments

For more details, check our website:
www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

Letters

Willow House fire

Dear Editor,

Your article on the devastating fire in Willow House (*The Archer*, November 2019) exposed the chaos wrought by the right to buy scheme when used in multi-occupancy buildings. As you reported, two of the flats remain owned by the Council i.e. Barnet Homes, the rest having been bought by their occupants as leasehold properties. Many of the flats are occupied by tenants of the original purchasers. So who is responsible for getting the work done?

In addition to the two flats, Barnet Homes own the common parts i.e. the roof, entrance, stairs etc. However when maintenance work is required the leaseholders have to pay the council to get the work done and one person's view of need doesn't necessarily agree with another's. The situation of having the flats occupied by tenants of the original purchasers may well be in contravention of the conditions of the leases and/or of the mortgage lenders. This problem is in addition to the obvious one of the depletion of the housing stock available to the Council.

**Yours faithfully,
Ann Inglis
Huntingdon Road, N2**

Good news on parking

Dear Editor,

We are very pleased to report that after several years of campaigning for a solution to the many and various parking and safety issues in our roads, residents of Leslie and Leopold Roads are now joining the N2 CPZ.

We attended the Finchley and Golders Green Local Area Committee meeting on 17 October where the results of the recent CPZ Statutory Consultation were announced. The response rate was one of the highest in the borough for CPZ consultations and an overwhelming majority (88%) of respondents voted in favour of the CPZ.

The committee voted to accept the consultation's recommendations and are going ahead with the CPZ extension. A big thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation especially those who also campaigned door to door.

A likely start date for the CPZ will be during the first quarter of 2020 and parking restrictions will operate for one hour between 2-3pm Monday-Friday. The council will write to residents 4-6 weeks before the start date with more information and practical details.

Parking has become increasingly fraught and difficult over the past few years as we have suffered from a cumulative displacement effect from the gradual extension of the N2 CPZ (a common complaint in London, especially near tube stations). More and more commuters seem to be parking in our roads and walking to the tube or their place of work. There were increasing 'stand-offs' and road rage incidents as drivers competed for spaces and passing places.

Once in place our CPZ will regulate non-resident/commuter

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parking, ensuring residents can park near their homes. It should also help reduce congestion and driver conflict, making parking a less stressful experience and creating a more pleasant and safer environment for all.

We have asked the FGG Committee to review the effects of the CPZ in 6 months. We also realise that some nearby non-CPZ roads may experience extra displacement parking and may then wish to apply to join the N2 CPZ.

In addition, we have requested double yellow lines at the junction of Leopold/High Road (very near the Martin School crossing) to allow clearer visibility and a safer access to the High Road, reducing the likelihood of accidents.

We would especially like to thank our councillors Alison Moore & Arjun Mittra for their invaluable help in making this happen, and also Brian Milsom for his initial campaigning on this issue.

**Yours faithfully,
Kathy Batten, Valerie Teague,
David Johns and Delory Lowndes,
Leopold Road, N2.**

Pavement peril

Dear Editor,

I'd like to add to what David Day has observed about the dangerous corner by Domino's (*The Archer*, November 2019). The delivery drivers are in the habit of leaving the road just by the bus stop before Fortis Green junction and riding on the pavement to the shop. They come up behind you at some speed with no regard at all for pedestrians.

**Yours faithfully,
Jan Masson,
Address supplied.**

Talent seekers

Applications are now open for acts to take part in North London's Got Talent 2020, which helps to raise funds for the North London Hospice supporting end-of-life care in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

If you're part of a dance or theatre company, a school or church band or choir, or perhaps you're a magician or comedian, the organisers would love to hear from you. Successful acts will be invited to take part in a live show in front of a panel of judges at artsdepot in North Finchley on Saturday 8 February.

Find more details and apply before Friday 13 December at www.northlondonhospice.org or call Amanda in the hospice fundraising team on 020 8446 2288.