



## Letters

### Green man guarantees nothing

Dear Editor,

Regarding a comment in the report on pedestrian crossing safety outside Martin School (*The Archer*, May 2019), we should certainly NOT be teaching children that a green light or green man guarantees their safety.

Traffic lights cannot and do not guarantee anything; neither that a car will stop nor that a pedestrian will not cross against a green light.

Children should be taught that fast moving traffic on the High Road is at all times to be treated with caution and considered dangerous!

**Yours faithfully,  
Duncan J MacLean,  
Huntingdon Road, N2.**

### Rent increases too steep

Dear Editor,

Belatedly I came across your article in the April edition regarding residents' anger on increased rental charges at Finchley Charities' homes in East Finchley. Any of your readers seeing that report would no doubt think 'Well, so what... everything has to increase due to the economic climate that we are experiencing at this time.'

Your report did not explain that the real problem was not about the general increase in rental charges, it was the amount of increase. A majority of residents had an increase of more than 40%. That amount was, in real money, for a one-bedroom flat an increase of £334 per month.

Most residents are pensioners on fixed incomes. How do I know this? Because I am a resident. To add insult to injury, I was notified that I would be receiving a pension increase of 25p per week due to reaching 80 years of age.

Yes, one of the Trustees did state that he agreed with me at the so-called Review meeting when I asked why the new charges couldn't be phased in over a longer period of four to five years. This was dismissed immediately.

**Yours faithfully,  
Name and address supplied.**

### Not very charitable

Dear Editor,

Following the article in April's *Archer* 'Residents of Finchley Charities Homes facing rent changes', I feel compelled to write expressing my dismay at the excessive levels of these increases.

At around 40% on average, you might say not very charitable, especially as the charity's finances are already very healthy, while most residents have very limited funds.

For myself, I have a little savings, which I had hoped would prolong my independence by a few years. However, this will soon be used up, forcing me to be dependent on the benefit system, something I was hoping to avoid.

As far as I can make out, no good reason has been given for such a big increase in the rent, apart from saying that the rents are currently sub-market! You would have thought that, as a charity, the Finchley Charities would be working to correct the broken housing market rather than cashing in on vulnerable tenants. It's all very depressing.

**Yours faithfully  
Name and address supplied.**

### Toilet trouble

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much to *The Archer* for highlighting the desperation of library users needing a wee (*The Archer*, April 2019). As someone with severe mobility issues, as well as a variety of other medical problems, the fact that—at last! — East Finchley library has been given an accessible toilet, only for it to be locked most of the time, just adds insult to injury. In the past, I have fallen over in the library and been helped by the staff. If I find myself lying on the floor with no one around to pick me up AND needing a wee, I'm afraid the outcome is uncertain.

**Yours faithfully,  
Harriet Connides,  
Address supplied.**

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

# In memory of Carol Jackson, 23 December 1955 – 16 March 2019

By Andrew Wilks

**Carol Jackson, my wife, died on 16 March 2019, having been knocked down by a car while crossing East Finchley High Road. She had just retired from the RSA (Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) as its Chief Operating Officer.**

Meeting Carol was an amazing stroke of luck. In May 1982 I met her on my first visit to Camden's evening social club for adults with a learning disability. Having failed accountancy exams, I'd switched to doing voluntary social work. At the end of the evening I invited her for my first date. I was not her first boyfriend but she was my first and only girlfriend and partner.

Meeting Carol prompted me to start thinking about feelings and relationships from a feminist slant. We just got on so well from the start, sharing a love of theatre, hill walking and women's rights. That's when I realised the importance of depending and being dependable.

Our relationship blossomed in the 1980s when she lived in London and I lived in Southampton, doing residential social work in a hostel for 24 adults with a learning disability. In 1988, after getting my professional social work qualification, I moved back to London and worked as a mental health social worker in Barnet.

Carol grew up in Sunderland, attended Bede School, and studied Economics at Girton College, Cambridge. After qualifying as an accountant in 1980, she worked at Dixon Wilson & Co, became the first female merchant banker at SG Warburg & Co, and went on to work for the Greater London Enterprise Board, Touche Ross and National & Provincial Building Society. In 1991 she joined John Lewis as Financial Adviser for the company's department stores, and we got married.

Carol knew that there's more to life than just a successful career. In February 1993 we moved to East Finchley where Rebecca was born in April. In August I stopped work, became a full-time house-husband and started looking after Rebecca and later Simon, who came along in 1995, while Carol continued her progress at John Lewis.

We had so many magic moments as Rebecca and Simon grew up and so much fun being part of Martin Infant and Primary School from 1996 to 2007. Carol helped its PTA raise £10,000 for the school's playground project from 2000-2003, a burst of creative partnership between all the children, the staff and dozens of parents, still



Warmth, integrity and love: Carol Jackson

visible in the shape of the painted plaques round the school's perimeter.

In 2004 she left John Lewis and took a pay cut to join the Refugee Council, going on to steer it through very difficult times, before moving on to join the RSA in 2011.

The response to her sudden and untimely death has led to an amazing outpouring of admiration and affection from friends, former colleagues and local people. Thank you, John Lewis. Thank you, the Refugee Council. Thank you, the RSA. Thank you, East Finchley. You're all brilliant at giving help and support and friendly words of comfort.

Carol has gone. But Carol's spirit, her goodness, her mental strength, her warmth, integrity and love will continue to guide us for ever.

## There's always time for cake

Friends and neighbours of Jane Marsh in Bedford Road, N2, enjoyed tea, coffee, cakes and savouries and helped to raise nearly £600 for the MS Society. This year her Cake Break on Saturday 27 April was also supported by a donation of savoury Greek pastries from Tony's Continental.

This is the seventh Cake Break that Jane, along with a team of helpers, has hosted and she's now raised a grand total of £2,838 for the charity. Multiple Sclerosis is an auto-immune



Break for cake: Jane Marsh gets ready to serve at the charity sale

condition affecting an estimated 107,000 people in the UK. There is no cure, but advances in its treatment and management are being made all the time and

fundraising plays an important part in facilitating this progress. To find out more about MS and/or make a donation, go to [www.ms-uk.org](http://www.ms-uk.org).

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