



Letters



Illegal parking: East End Road.

Zebra zig zags

Dear Editor,

As your readers will know, a zebra crossing was installed near the junction of Market Place and East End Road in the autumn of 2016 (The Archer, October 2016).

In recent months quite a number of drivers have taken to parking by the white zig zag lines on the south side to the east of this crossing, sometimes staying there for much of the day. Attached is a photo of one such car.

This is specifically prohibited in The Highway Code (rule no. 191). The purpose of this rule is to prevent parked cars from obscuring pedestrians waiting to cross the road. The fixed penalty for contravening this provision in the Road Traffic Act is a £60 fine and three points on the driver's licence.

No doubt the police and the traffic wardens are enforcing this law from time to time, but that does not seem to have deterred these motorists. Pedestrians who use this crossing should therefore be advised to take extra care whenever there is a car illegally parked by the crossing.

Yours faithfully, Lawrence Robinson Address supplied.

Senseless destruction

Dear Editor,

I have a nearby allotment (outside East Finchley) and found that as a plot was due to change hands the powers-that-be have taken it upon themselves to completely fill in a wildlife pond that was full of hibernating frogs (and probably newts too).

At this time of the year the females are carrying spawn ready to mate and produce the next generation of amphibia, so destroying this beautiful little pond has killed not only the adult populations of amphibia and many invertebrates within it but also the entire potential communities therein.

I would have thought that allotment holders would recognise the value of the frogs and other creatures, and the bonus of having a small stronghold of them on allotment land. There are a number of ecologically knowledgeable people who have plots on the same site who could have moved the aquatic populations in due course, had we only been informed. What a sad start to spring 2019

Yours faithfully, Linda A Dolata, Leopold Road, N2.

Treasure chests Dear Editor

The charity shops on East Finchley High Road are worth visiting. They are great fun and full of interesting things to see and buy. Clothes, books, beautiful crockery and glassware, jewellery and antiques are all to be found at bargain prices.

Charities now rely on these shops to raise essential money and awareness of their work. Importantly we should all be happy to join in with this trend of recycling. It is better than overproduction of materials and ultimately better for our planet.

So thank you Julie at RSPCA, Rachel at North London Hospice, Leslie at All Aboard and Maureen at Cats Protection League and all the staff for your hard work and friendliness.

Yours faithfully, Maureen Delandro. Address supplied.

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

East Finchley artists take flight to the City

By Mike Coles A group of artists based around East Finchley are taking their work to a wider audience with an exhibition in the prestigious Barbican Library Art Gallery in the City of London.

Nearly 50 members of the East Finchley Open Artists (EFOA) group are currently putting finishing touches to their contributions to a show with the title Primavera, which will run for three weeks in March.

Primavera takes its name from a painting by Botticelli illustrating the coming of spring, but EFOA embraces artists working in a range of disciplines, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles and jewellery, all of which will be represented in the Barbican exhibition.

Showcasing talent

EFOA member Jo Pethybridge, coordinator of the working party organising the exhibition, says: "This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our work and to demonstrate to people who work in the City, to Barbican residents and to visitors to the library and arts centre, the diversity of artistic talent which exists in suburbs like East Finchley."



Zitta Smith's bead work on show at Primavera at the Barbican Library

EFOA organises exhibitions in North London and further afield throughout the year, notably the Open House weekends in July, when members display their work and that of their colleagues in their own homes.

Primavera will run from Tuesday 12 to Saturday 30

March and will be open Monday to Saturday during library opening hours. Admission is free and works on display are for sale. Find it at the Barbican Library, 2nd floor, The Barbican, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS. More details at www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Four times in seven months

By Chris Mathewson

Six o'clock Sunday morning, 27 January 2019. I can't sleep. Switch on the light, but it doesn't go on. Ditto the radio.

Yippee! It's a power cut in Park Hall Road, the fourth in seven months: they're spoiling us.

I dial 08000 280247 on my mobile. "Normally we answer in ten seconds, regret right now it is taking ten minutes..." I hang on. "N2 9PT," I eventually tell the woman. "Ah yes, there is a cut there," she tells me. "We are trying to sort it." She's very nice and at least confirms the cut.

She tells me to text the word POWER with my post code to 60707. The cause is a fault with an underground cable. Engineers were despatched at 06.00. The estimated timeframe to have power back on is 11.00 - 12.00.

Djokovic takes the first set against Nadal easily on my battery-operated radio.

Update at 10.35: "We're sorry you're still without power. We're now estimating to have you back on between 14.00 and 15.00. We can appreciate how frustrating this can be."

Djokovic running away with it!

Update at 12.07: "Our customer support vehicle is now on site and ready to provide extra support to anyone affected by the power cut."

12.30, the light comes on. It's over! But for how long? The light goes off. THEN COMES ON AGAIN.

Djokovic wraps it up 6-3, 6-2, 6-3. Incredible!

Apparently 60 or so households were affected. At 15.56 "all but one property" have had power restored. The cut lasted about 11 hours for most customers.

UK Power Networks ask me to text my comments. I tell them their texting service is very good but this was our FOURTH power cut in SEVEN months. The problem should have been investigated more fully at an earlier time.

When I leave the house later in the day half the street seems to have been dug up. I thank the workmen, they are heroes! "Cheers, mate," they grin.

But Djokovic...!

Swinging Sixties on celluloid

By Daphne Chamberlain

Remember Friern Barnet Library, the library that refused to be closed? Mike Gee has started a new community event there, a 1960s film club.

Mike is a fan of the Swinging Sixties. In his words: "We'll almost exclusively be looking at British films, and more explicitly those that capture and illustrate the essence of the times. We won't be looking at period dramas, westerns, traditional musicals, war films, or anything so mainstream that it gets repeated ad infinitum on television. We'll be looking for a world where everything is fab and groovy."

Each programme has a main feature and 'shorts'. Interestingly, the introductory film on the opening night was a lively documentary about the 1951 Festival of Britain, which Mike believes prepared the ground for a new society.

On Monday 18 March the main feature will be Blow Up, Antonioni's film about a photographer in 1966 London. In support will be Sounds from

the Sixties in an extract from Beat Club, plus the story of Vox Amps, and Eating High, featuring the revolving restaurant at the top of Telecom Tower.

A movie and more

Mike told The Archer: "Most of what we see will come from my personal collection of 1960s films and music. I've never intended the club to be 'turn up, watch a movie and go home', I want to provide background information to put things into perspective, and provoke some sort of reaction and thought."

The Film Club meets on the third Monday of every month at Friern Barnet Community Library, Friern Barnet Road, N11 3DS. Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.15pm. Mike welcomes feedback and ideas for films. You can contact him on mikegee1968@gmail.com or 020 8346 5503.