



Letters



Busy junction: Pedestrians need help crossing The Bishops Avenue

Another accident waiting to happen

Dear Editor,

Following on from the letter in the April edition "We need another crossing" written as a result of the very sad death of a woman crossing the High Road, I agree that there should be further zebra crossings along the High Road to make it safer but I must also raise the question of the junction of The Bishops Avenue and the Great North Road, which is another accident waiting to happen.

We residents in the flats on the Great North Road have been writing to Barnet Council for well over a year now pleading for something to be done at this junction and I am sure we are not the only ones. Barnet Council say they are "obtaining traffic data" and "investigating the options of providing traffic signals"... still! I don't know what is taking so long. One only has to stand at this busy junction (for pedestrians and vehicles) to try to cross The Bishops Avenue and it is easy to see how horrendously dangerous it is to do so as there is traffic coming from three directions at all times. It seems obvious that a three-way traffic signal incorporating a safe pedestrian crossing is the answer.

Do we have to wait until, God forbid, there is another fatality for Barnet Council to act? Please, Barnet, sort this out now.

Yours faithfully

Kate Barnett,
Great North Road, N2.

Dangerous crossing

Dear Editor,

Will it take the death of another pedestrian (The Archer, April 2019) before the council installs a similar and much-needed pedestrian refuge on The Bishops Avenue close to the junction with the Great North Road?

People take their lives in their hands every time they try to cross The Bishops Avenue to get to and from East Finchley station or the shops in the High Road. They have to contend with vehicles coming along The Bishops Avenue as well as those turning either left or right into it from the Great North Road. It is especially difficult for the elderly, the infirm and people with young children to cross safely.

I have seen several near misses at this busy junction in recent years and would ask that our local councillors put pressure on Barnet Council to install a central refuge there as soon as possible. It would be a quick and relatively inexpensive solution to a serious problem. Letters I have sent to the

council on the subject have met with a negative response.

Yours faithfully,
Stephen Barry
Great North Road, N2.

Editor's note: The Archer contacted Barnet Council to ask how their traffic survey and plans to address calls for a safer passage across The Bishops Avenue (first reported in The Archer in February 2018) were progressing. This was their response:

"We are monitoring traffic in this area to determine the best way to improve safety at the junction of Bishops Avenue and High Road. One option being considered is the introduction of a new controlled crossing with traffic signals.

"Transport for London have been engaged to investigate the feasibility of this. Haringey Council will be included in discussions, and residents and businesses will be consulted before any final decision is made."

Trees must be managed

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter about trees ('Tree tragedy', The Archer, April 2019) I was furious to read this. The tree shown cut down in the photo is by no means an ancient tree. It's only been growing 20 or 30 years since I moved onto the Grange.

Trees planted too near buildings, that grow too big and obscure daylight are a problem all over London, and a huge financial burden for councils.

I'm utterly miserable all summer because I have hardly any daylight in my flat. It is already dingy because of small windows; in addition, a giant tree obscures the light all summer, when trees are in leaf.

For anyone who is old or ill, housebound, this is positively life destroying, causing depression due to lack of daylight, like living in a dungeon.

I am sickened that the tree that was cut down is not the one that is in front of my window. Why, oh why, can they not plant trees that do not grow so big, like fruit trees, which would be of some use to us and give us fruit we could pick?

Yours faithfully,
A Grange resident.
(Name and address supplied).

Bin and gone

Dear Editor,

The recycling bins outside East Finchley station were removed a year or two ago. More recently some fixed black cylinder street bins have also been dismantled (one half-demolished relic is in Fairlawn Avenue near the High Road).

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

As a responsible dog owner who always picks up his detritus, I am unwilling to carry a plastic bag (with excrement) miles seeking a municipal bin. In Twyford Avenue, on the Barnet Council side, there were previously metal oblong shaped receptacles on metal stands for dog waste. They were removed (though the stakes remained).

Significantly, in Hampstead Garden Suburb (a Tory ward) this has not occurred. Could it be that not only cost-cutting but political factors are in play? And, other than canine 'squat ins' outside the town hall in Hendon, are there any other sensible suggestions for getting the bins restored?

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

I'll sort out Brexit for you

Dear Editor,

I believe that the last three years have been frittered away by those who led the campaign to leave the EU and those who believe that their duty is to support this process in the name of democracy.

Now is the time for new leadership. I have a long history of working in British film and TV comedy and for many European television channels. More importantly, I have never been involved with politics. Consequently I am putting myself forward as the ideal candidate to take on the negotiations with the European Union with the intention of finding a way through the present chaos or holding a second referendum.

I have asked our MP Mike Freer if he has the opportunity to please pass on my offer to Mrs May. She will probably realise my suitability for this role if told that I worked on *The Benny Hill Show* many years ago, so consequently understand her negotiating strategy.

As a resident of East Finchley for nearly 30 years I understand the value of the EU to Londoners and the country and hope the community will support me in my efforts to break this deadlock.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Welch,
Durham Road, N2.

Let baby birds live

Dear Editor,

Could I make a request for your cat owning readers to consider nesting wild birds that entrust East Finchley with their new nests this season, please? Many neighbours seem to possess multiple cats, some of which are dedicated stalkers. If cats are kept indoors during daylight hours or if they are kitted out with bell collars so that they can be heard before they pounce, at least that gives the delicate new fledglings a moment or two's breathing space. Thanks for taking care of our communal and shared habitat.

Yours faithfully,
Paul Thompson,
Address supplied.



Team spirit: The N2CC boys.

Anyone for cricket?

North Two Cricket Club (N2CC) is getting in practice for the new season and is putting out an invitation for new players to come along and join the team. The club plays friendlies in and around north London from May to September and the fixtures are usually very sociable. Guests are also welcome to play, with an afternoon's match fee of £10. More information can be found at www.n2cc.co.uk.

Old Finchleians

Old Finchleians Cricket Club is also opening its arms to new members. The club, which has a recently refurbished clubhouse in Southover, Woodside Park, N12, runs two Saturday competitive sides playing in the Hertfordshire league, a Sunday friendly side, and also play occasional mid-week T20 games in and around the local area throughout the playing season from April to October. For more information, call Ben Howard on 07947 497214.

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.



Up the junction

By Alex Wheeler

There seems to be a lack of clarity about how to behave when driving through the main crossroads where the High Road meets Fortis Green and East End Road in the centre of East Finchley. Here are some suggestions for those currently lacking the knowledge of how to join in properly.

Within 100 metres of the lights, you should be looking for a way to cut up the other drivers. If you see any sort of gap ahead, just try and drive into it. Your bravery and prowess will be rewarded with a fanfare of hooting and beeping. This is the other drivers expressing their admiration and, let's face it, envy. You are amazing.

Once at the lights, if you find any of the people you cut up are jealous and angry at your success, this is your chance to wind down your window and, using a very loud voice, tell them to go forth and multiply. Advanced level work can include leaving your vehicle and banging on their roof like a chimp at a safari park.

Of course, if you haven't been lucky enough to find yourself in an altercation, you don't need to feel left out. Why not make a phone call using your vehicle's hands-free kit and turn up the volume so loud that everyone around can hear one half of your confidential work conversation? Don't forget to beep every few minutes so everyone knows you're still fantastic.

As the lights go green, it's your chance to shine. Just drive anywhere you want. Indicators are just to throw people off your trail. Popular moves on the High Road near The Bald Faced Stag include cutting across from the left lane into the right in an attempt to turn into Fortis Green. Or why not use this as a chance to slow down to almost a stop and really get that choir of car horns singing?

I hope that from reading this everyone can see that there are so many ways to enjoy our tricky crossroads in your car. Make sure you really get your day off to a flying start by threatening violence against someone taking their children to school or using language that would melt paint towards someone driving completely normally and safely.

Good luck and I can't wait to hear you all beeping and screaming at the lights soon!