



Letters

A plaque for William Dear Editor,

I was very interested to read your article about the sad death of young William Bowman, which eventually resulted in the underpass between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road (*The Archer*, September 2021). Alongside this historical vignette, you placed the news item that the Grange Big Local project is kickstarting work to improve the state of the underpass.

How about Grange Big Local incorporating a small plaque with this piece of local social history when the work is commissioned? It's a route heavily used by youngsters today so what could be more appropriate?

Heather Daniel
Trinity Road, N2.

Watch your step

Dear Editor,

I've just come back from visiting a country town, where I could take a walk without keeping my eyes fixed on the ground. What a joy! I could actually look around without worrying if I was going to end up in A&E, suffering from shock and broken bones. Not what the NHS wants!

Most of our pavements close to home are in a disgusting condition. We used to be told we could claim compensation if we tripped over a paving stone that was raised up by the height of a 50p coin. Well, we don't carry coins around now, but the raised stones are still there.

It makes you wonder why we still have paved surfaces. Wouldn't a smooth surface be so much better? Perhaps someone can tell us the pros and cons. Thanks in anticipation.

Steph Robinson,
East End Road, N2.

Blocked deliveries Dear Editor,

I have been a fan of *The Archer* for more than 20 years now. In the early days, delivery of the paper to the flats where I live was somewhat sporadic, so I resolved to volunteer to deliver to the roads in the immediate vicinity as a means of ensuring that I received a copy every month, and have delivered my round ever since then.

Over the years I have helped out from time to time by delivering extra rounds, for example when the usual deliverer is on holiday and I have covered many if not most of the rounds in East Finchley for *The Archer* at one time or another.

Access to flat blocks has often been a problem, such as when the so-called tradesmen's bells malfunction, or when external letterboxes become overfull, but in recent times it has become the practice for new flat block developments, of which there have been an large number in East Finchley, to forsake any kind of unrestricted access, presumably in the name of security.

Examples of this include Whitcomb Lodge, Mercian Lodge, Penrose Lodge, Beaumont Close and the former police station in Fortis Green – I am sure there are many more.

It is almost impossible for an outsider to deliver *The Archer* to people who live there without help from a resident, so if readers want to receive the paper, they could consider volunteering to deliver just to their building. That way many more people will be able to be part of the East Finchley community.

Lawrence Robinson,
Address supplied.

Editor's note: If you live in N2 and think your block of flats is missing deliveries of The Archer each month, please email us at news@the-archer.co.uk or leave a message for free on 0800 612 0748.

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

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and

Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

Southern visitor settles into London life

By John Lawrence

Thanks to former *Archer* editor Tony Roberts for these pictures of a striking moth he spotted while walking in Coppetts Wood. It appears to be a Jersey Tiger moth, a species officially labelled as scarce and previously confined to counties along the south coast but now increasingly seen in London.

Tony said: "When it opened its wings and flew off it was a brilliant red, with black and white edging, much like a Red Admiral butterfly. Our ancient guide book suggests it normally lives further south or south west. Perhaps evidence of global warming?"

The Jersey Tiger moth is thought to have first come to England in the 1970s and until recently was most often seen in Dorset, Devon, Sussex and the Isle of Wight. It favours rough undisturbed grounds, much like Coppetts Wood, and feeds on nettles, buddleia, borage and nettles.



Distinctive: A Jersey Tiger moth spotted in Coppetts Wood. Photo Tony Roberts

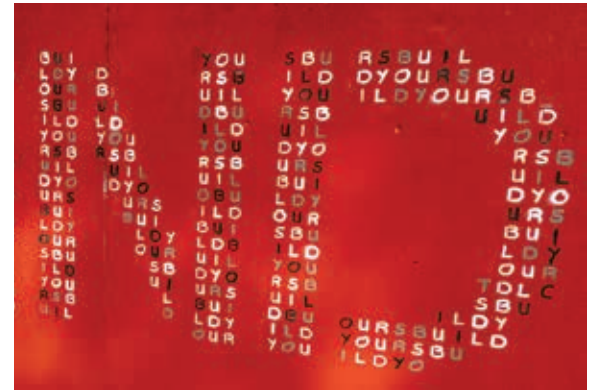
Street art with a meaningful construction

By Mike Coles

If you happen to be passing the building site on Twyford Avenue, near the East Finchley end and the junction with Fortis Green, you attention may be drawn by a striking piece of street art.

Written in huge text on the building site hoardings is the message 'Build Your Mind' and pedestrians who come in closer will notice that each letter is constructed from hundreds of individual words and messages.

It's the work of Taya De La Cruz, a Leicester Road resident, who as well as being a talented actor specialises in crafting images on canvas using fine-nibbed pens to inscribe tiny letters with painstaking precision (see *The Archer*, January 2020).



In detail: Taya De La Cruz's art work. Photo: Mike Coles



Writing on the wall: Taya De La Cruz's art work in Twyford Avenue, N2. Photo Mike Coles

the experience we have, no matter the circumstances life throws at us. Accountability for our own experience is healing. It all starts with the state of mind we choose to have."

'Build Your Mind' is the first in the 'Build Yours' series, which is set to be a collection of murals created on construction sites around London. Taya's mural will be available for a limited time as the Twyford Avenue hoardings will be coming down in a couple of months. Find out more on Instagram @handwrittenart

Shape your state of mind

So, what's behind her new work? "It was designed and created as a message of empowerment and hope following the year and a half of fear and isolation promoted by the pandemic," says Taya. "I was always encouraged to adopt an attitude of positivity through adversity, which is absolutely easier said than done, but not impossible. By taking ownership of the things we can control, we get to dictate

Fundraiser for rescues on the Thames

By Diana Cormack

London is not the place that first springs to mind when thinking about the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) yet our city's Tower Lifeboat Station is the busiest in the UK.

Situated at Waterloo Bridge, it opened in 2002 and since then has launched more than 8,350 times, rescuing almost 2,000 people and saving 334 lives.

The Tower crew stay on the station in 12-hour shifts and are ready to launch within 90 seconds every day of the year. They consist of 55 volunteers and ten full-time crew members.

However, their present floating station is old and cramped, with the constant river movement and tidal conditions leaving it beyond economical improvement as well as causing uncomfortable conditions for the crew. The standard of facilities for giving the best possible care to casualties is poor and lacks privacy from the general public.

In early September an appeal was launched to raise £33,000 towards a brand new station to include modern facilities such as private, purpose-built spaces for casualty care, a drying room for kit and a new area for public engagement.

The RNLI is a charity funded by public donations. For more info visit www.towernli.com