



Letters

Traffic fumes

Dear Editor,

Started in November 2020, and due to continue until March 2022, the bus and cycle lane traffic scheme on the A1000 through East Finchley and North Finchley is a disaster. There have been many comments on the scheme, the majority adverse, on the basis that up to three times a day there are long queues of cars crawling along, emitting pollution as they stop and start, but very little use by cyclists, and that parking restrictions introduced on the route have had an adverse effect on local shops. Also that rat runs have developed as motorists use side streets.

Even some cyclists object to the scheme, in which the cycle lane stops and starts several times. The posts which separate the cycle lane are repeatedly knocked down. Moreover the bus lane from East Finchley Fortis Green traffic lights going north is used by only one bus, the 263, so why take half the road for it? As the time for 'consultation' ends in March, it would be reasonable for Barnet Council to say what form the consultation will take, who will be consulted, and in particular what measurements have been made of the numbers of cars and cyclists using the scheme. However when I have asked the question of the Governance Officer, three times so far, I have been told each time that the Highways team will reply. They have not done so. It does seem that the council is trying to steamroller the scheme in, but let us see what if anything they will do to clarify their plans and allow for real consultation.

Barry H White,
Address supplied.

Can we have our bench back?

Dear Editor,

The public bench outside the Monkey Puzzle Nursery on High Road, opposite East Finchley tube station, disappeared recently. This was a long-standing and useful staging post for the elderly to take a break. Can we have it back please?

Also, for some time now the audible signal on the pedestrian crossing outside the tube has not been functioning. I informed Transport for London a few years ago, but no action was taken. This must be very hazardous for blind people.

Jacky Wood,
Address supplied.

Puppet pantomime

Dear Editor,

I was grateful and honoured to see the article 'Winter Pantomime for the NHS' in your January edition and I hope people will donate to Whittington Hospital through the JustGiving link in the article.

However, I need to correct the lines that I'd raised money with my singing nightingale puppet. I had originally wanted to do this, but the health and safety team objected to the idea of me bringing strangers' cash into the hospital and said no on these grounds. It was in response to this that the fundraising department suggested an online show.

As I don't feel right accepting credit for raising money I haven't, I felt I needed to clarify that I wasn't allowed to use the nightingale puppet. The rest of the article was correct and I greatly appreciate *The Archer* promoting the show, not so much for me and the other actors, but for the NHS.

Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2.

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>



Picked apart: Donated items left in bags were scattered across the pavement outside All Aboard. Photo Lynn Winton

Take care not to leave charity shop donations outside

By Diana Cormack

One morning just before Christmas passers-by on the High Road were greeted with heaps of goods strewn along the pavement outside the All Aboard charity shop and beyond.

Many such shops display notices requesting that donations are brought to staff inside during opening hours. Those left outside are subject to being ransacked, with the remaining items often no longer classed as appropriate for sale.

However, one of the All Aboard volunteers said that these particular black sacks had been put out after closing time the previous evening to be collected

as rubbish at 6am the following day. There was no indication of what they contained and the situation would be looked at.

They now put these black sacks into stronger pink ones on which details of the refuse collectors are clearly marked. Hopefully this might deter some of the night-time searchers and prevent them from littering our pavements as well as depriving the charity of funds.

What your library card can do for you

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Library has returned to its pre-pandemic opening hours. For all users and potential users, here is a selection of items from the latest edition of the Barnet Libraries Newsletter.

Get a library card and save money

Having a library card will help you avoid overdue fines. If your correct email address is on your account, you will get reminders of when your items are due.

A card also lets you read newspapers and magazines free online, get free eBooks and audiobooks and borrow DVDs at a low cost.

Joining or renewing membership

If you are not yet a member and want to join Barnet Libraries you can do so online at www.barnet.gov.uk/libraries. If your email address is on your library account, you will be told when your card is due to expire.

Advance reservations

A selection of the biggest book releases is arriving very soon. You can request them through the Select and Collect service by clicking the link to the catalogue. You will need your library card number and PIN to log into your account and request the item.

Who Else Writes Like...?

If you have exhausted your favourite authors, then www.whoelsewriteslike.com offers suggestions of others you might like to try. Search by author, character or series, and you will find authors who write in a similar vein, plus additional information on authors' websites, etc.

Covid-induced staff shortages

The libraries service apologises for any alteration to services and events brought about by staff shortages, and recommends that you check opening hours before visiting.

Free concerts back on

East Finchley Methodist Church resumes its popular series of free Sunday evening concerts this month with a programme of three works for trio. Cellist Maryan Balkwill, violinist Junko Ishigaki and pianist Caroline Soresby will perform Trio Pathétique by Glinka, Elegie for Piano Trio by Josef Suk and Dumky Trio by Dvorak.

The concert takes place at the church on the High Road, opposite the junction with Creighton Avenue, on Sunday 13 February at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a collection in aid of the Nordoff Robbins



No news: The station's newspaper stands have turned into bins

New use for newspaper stands?

The two newspaper and magazine stands outside East Finchley station that once held copies of Time Out and Capital AM seem to have fallen out of use.

However, at the time of writing, some people are dropping their rubbish in them instead, despite there being a black litter bin within a few steps. This may be better than scattering it on the pavement, but what happens when the stands are full?