



Letters

Tennis court charges

Dear Editor,

Whilst some might have thought that the announcement that Barnet Council was now charging for the use of the two tennis courts at Cherry Tree Wood (The Archer, September 2023), was bad news, allow me to explain why it is in fact a very positive move for tennis in the borough.

Ever since the courts were refurbished two years ago and a free 'booking system' was introduced, it has been virtually impossible to book a court. Why? Because whilst in theory anyone could book a court up to seven days in advance, in practice both courts were being fully booked virtually every day from morning to night.

Sounds great, lots of tennis being played - but in fact virtually no tennis was being played because these courts were being booked preemptively on the basis that in theory someone might need them for playing or coaching but in fact, anyone turning up at the time of a 'booked court' would usually find them deserted.

The argument against charging was that this would prevent young players from using the courts but the Council, very sensibly, are keeping a number of sessions open and free to book every day.

So, congratulations to Barnet for finding a sensible solution and thanks to Councillor Arjun Mittra who pursued this matter on behalf of real, as opposed to phantom, tennis players.

Ivor Gaber
Fortis Green, N2.

Say no to Co-op

Dear Editor,

Under no circumstances should the Co-op be granted permission to open in East Finchley (The Archer, October 2023). We have more than enough food shopping choices and are blessed with very diverse and well stocked independent food markets. Don't allow any more large food retailers to disrupt the diversity of what is on offer already. It would be another nail in the coffin of our hard working independent food retailers which can only damage our small and vibrant high street.

Natalie Baskin,
Maya Road, N2.

Race night will be fun

Dear Editor

Many, many thanks for the article you did on me and my charity walk in the October edition.

Thank you for also mentioning the Race Night at Madden's Pub in the High Road, N2, on Monday 6 November at 7.30pm. It will be a fun night of betting on horse racing. There will be complimentary Italian food available, prepared by me, and I must say, I'm a very good cook! Also, there will be a short acoustic performance by my band Sound of the Suburb. I'll be joined by my great friends and former band mates and we'll be playing some songs for your listening pleasure. All together, it will surely be a great night.

Chris Berlingieri,
Durham Road, N2

The Archer online

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Send your correspondence to:
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.



New hosts: Arina and Eamonn are celebrating their first year in charge at the Windsor Castle

Couple mark a year behind the bar

The new managers of The Windsor Castle are hosting a special evening to celebrate their first year in business at the independent pub in The Walks, N2. Arina Piskunova and Eamonn England took over in November 2022 following an extensive refurbishment.

The pair will be hosting a live jazz evening on Saturday 18 November with discounts on all food until 9pm and a buy-one-get-one-free offer on selected drinks from 4pm to 6pm.

Arina said: "The support we've received locally has

been incredible, and we're very grateful to everyone who steps through our doors. Energy and food costs have been very high for us, and as an independent business we've struggled at times, but we appreciate that the cost of living is impacting

everyone."

The Windsor runs a popular quiz on the second Tuesday of each month (booking essential) and there's a free acoustic folk session on the last Wednesday of each month where musicians are welcome to sit in and play.

Be on your guard against shingles

By Diana Cormack

As well as the Covid vaccination, older people are being offered a jab against the painful condition of shingles. Having suffered from it twice in the past, I would encourage others to get themselves immunised.

Shingles is caused by reactivation of the chicken pox virus which lies dormant in many of us who had the childhood illness. The risk of contracting it increases with age and in those with a weakened immune system. Shingles cannot be caught from someone with the condition, but those lacking immunity to chicken pox can develop it.

Shingles shows itself with tiny tracking reddened spots that increase in size and spread, following a nerve pattern. It forms blisters which are extremely painful and can cause

damage to specific areas such as the eyes, face and skin. As they dry out, rough and sensitive patches may remain for many months.

The NHS website says: "The shingles vaccine helps protect against shingles. It's recommended for people at higher

risk from shingles, including all adults turning 65, those aged 70 to 79 and those aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system."

If you match the age ranges and conditions above and have not been immunised, contact your GP surgery.

All Saints' East Finchley Church of England advertisement with contact details and service times.

Talent show comeback

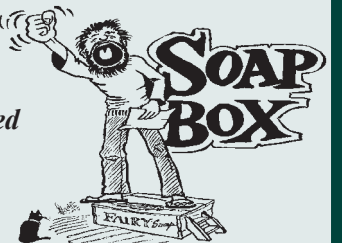
By Diana Cormack East Finchley Town Team is planning to stage a talent show at the Phoenix Cinema in January for the second year running.

Last year's East Finchley's Got Talent event was a big success. At the same time there will be another cake baking competition, possibly with a film theme.

Everyone is welcome to the Town Team's next meeting on Thursday 9 November at 7pm for a 7.30pm start in the Constitutional Club, The Walks, N2. Food will be available and drinks can be bought at the bar.

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.



Dirty dogs or careless owners?

By Diana Cormack

On a recent television quiz contestants were asked to estimate the number of dogs in this country. Amazingly the answer was 20 million, approximately one to every three human beings. Before Covid there would certainly have been fewer, for many people bought a pet during lockdown.

Sadly, since then, many dogs have been abandoned or put into care because their owners find them too expensive or too much trouble to keep.

But another aspect of dog owning that seems to be on the decline is clearing up after them. Nobody can have failed to notice that the amount of dog poo on pavements and paths has increased along with the number of dogs.

When a dog is involved in an attack we're often told that it is the fault of the owner. We can't know if this is always true, but in the case of foul piles of dog muck there is no doubt. Whoever was in charge of that animal is responsible for disposing of the mess and in the places provided too, not hanging off a branch or secreted beside someone's garden fence.

So watch your step when you're out and about as our streets are not as safe as they used to be, even in fragrant East Finchley.