



Letters

Don't scrap the lane

Dear Editor,

Traffic heading north on the High Road backs up when the queue to turn right into Fortis Green blocks all northbound traffic (Letters, The Archer, January 2025). This happens when there is continuous southbound traffic so nothing can turn into Fortis Green until the lights change.

Then only two or three cars will make it through the light, or if a bus or lorry is waiting that might be the sole vehicle.

A simple solution would be to keep the northbound lights green longer than the southbound at busy times. That way there's no need to scrap anything.

J Royall,
Ingram Road, N2
(Car and bike user)

There are wheelie too many

Dear Editor,

Many large wheelie bins are

stored every day on the pavement of the East Finchley High Road. Some are very close to a junction or a pedestrian crossing, which can affect visibility.

Over 35 wheelie bins were recorded on 25 January on the stretch from the Tube station to Bedford Road alone. I am concerned these obstructions could have a detrimental effect on everybody's safety.

Gardener Finch,
Durham Road, N2

Send your letters 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.

All-day tournament at indoor bowls club



Come and learn: The all-day bowling fundraiser takes place at Glebelands Bowling Club

By Lynn Winton
Serial fundraiser Howard Skolnick, who has already raised thousands of pounds for Prostate Cancer UK, has come up with a new initiative and he hopes readers of The Archer will get on board.

"Last year, I organised an all-day series of Walking Football matches with my club and other local teams and we raised over £8,000 as well as having a brilliant day," explained Howard. "So I started to think about different types of sports clubs who could copy the format and I had a very positive response from Glebelands, the indoor bowls club in Finchley."

On Saturday 22 March the club in Summers Lane, N12, is

hosting an all-day tournament and with the aim of raising at least £10,000 this time for Prostate Cancer UK and Target Ovarian Cancer.

There are spaces for 480 players and everyone is welcome to have a go, even if you've never played before. In fact, Howard advises it would be an ideal opportunity for a complete beginner. An hour's play is free, but he hopes that all those taking part will enter into the spirit of the event and make a donation.

If you would like to register for your place or find out more about indoor bowling at Glebelands, contact Rhys Lewis by emailing glebelandsibc@gmail.com or calling him on 020 8446 2090.

James McCormack: A passion for snooker... and a love of singing

Popular Park Road resident James McCormack, who died in December aged 93, lived in East Finchley for 27 years, for much of that time with his beloved wife and teenage sweetheart Maura.

Born in 1931 in Boyle, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, James had an idyllic country childhood. It was here that his love of sport, particularly football and snooker, was nurtured. When a gift of football boots arrived from America, young James refused to ever take them off.

The passion proved lifelong and he was still enjoying kickabouts with local children during lockdown, socially distanced of course.

In the early 1950s, James moved to London with his family and was soon joined by Maura. The couple threw themselves into the social whirl of the London Irish community. James's singing was the highlight of these gatherings; Danny Boy and Sweetest Little Fellow were favourites. Daughter Helen said: "He put his heart and soul into every song he sang."

Two stripes

London life was interrupted by National Service and James spent two years in Hong Kong. Despite a rocky start (he was unsure of correct saluting protocol, resulting in time in solitary), James went on to earn



Much-loved neighbour: James McCormack

two stripes in two years and was proud of his time in the Army.

Returning to the UK, James had stints at Foyle's bookshop and antique specialists Spinks before settling into a 25-year career at Barclays Bank.

Loyal, outgoing and caring, James was a 'people person'. "Such a kind man," recalled one neighbour. A regular at the East Finchley Constitutional Club, he was still beating everyone at snooker there into his 90s.

Maura's loss in 2020 was devastating but the support of his large family, many friends and his own zest for life sustained him. Whether heading down the High Road first thing for the racing papers or off to church or the theatre with a group of friends, he was gregarious and immaculately turned out to the end. He leaves his brother Joe, sister Sarah and children Helen and James.

Get knitted at new crafting group



Where there's a wool: Members of the Knitting and Crochet Club have been busy

By Julia Lawrence
Knitting and crocheting are a proven aid to stress and anxiety and are no longer considered just a pastime for grandmas, with young people like Olympic diver Tom Daley taking them up enthusiastically.

Keen knitter Daphne Berkovi has started a crafting group, through the Knitting & Crochet Guild, where beginners and highly skilled enthusiasts meet every week to swap tips,

and pass two hours in a mutually supportive and friendly company.

The North London branch meets every Wednesday at the Costa Coffee in Temple Fortune from 10am to noon and Daphne is keen to spread the word on this lovely hobby.

"I was taught to knit as a little girl and later taught myself to crochet. It really helped me when my husband Jack died four years ago," she said. "I was his carer for 11 years, and he used to love watching me

crochet, and I found it very relaxing.

"I started this group three months ago, and at the beginning about seven ladies, of various ages joined us. Yes, we are all women at the moment but everyone is welcome. The staff at Costa are wonderful, and make us very welcome."

Find out more

For more information, go to the guild website: kcguild.org.uk or email Daphne at: daphnesbland@gmail.com