



Letters

Dangerous rat runs
Dear Editor,

Barnet Council has said its feasibility study into traffic calming measures in the county roads in East Finchley concluded that they were subject to "significant cut through traffic" and were over-used by non-residential traffic.

In parallel, Haringey Council recently announced a school roads plan which will close Creighton Avenue in peak times. As a result, all traffic heading west or east will have to use Fortis Green Road.

Where westwards it cannot currently turn right onto the High Road, the result of the two boroughs' plans for increased road safety is thus that all Fortis Green and Creighton Avenue traffic will go through the very narrow county roads.

Significantly Barnet's recognition that the county roads are currently over-used didn't even consider the likely incoming increase. Its response ignored suggestions to close the rat run and instead to put in place speed bumps. Same dangerous rat run with increasing traffic.

Barnet is proposing works on the Fortis Green and High Road junction. At that time the road markings should be modified to allow right turns and save lives. Simply staging the lights so there is no oncoming traffic would allow better right-turn traffic flow without any road works.

Worried county road resident,
Name and address supplied.

Right turn is right move
Dear Editor,

I live on Durham Road, and wish to comment on the outcome of the East Finchley Statutory Consultation proposals.

Along with others, I feel very strongly that the one issue that was not consulted on, and is the cause of the rat run, the speeding and the parking issues on Durham Road, is the lack of a right turn from Fortis Green onto the High Road.

If this one issue was addressed, there would be no need for speed humps of whatever sort in the county roads, nor double yellow lines.

The High Road intersection with Fortis Green/East End Road is extremely dangerous for pedestrians, with cars taking no notice of red lights and speeding across the junction.

In order to improve safety for pedestrians at that crossing, and to stop the county roads including Durham being used as rat runs, the Council should consider installing a right hand filter at the High Road for traffic wanting to travel north, together with a timed, counting-down crossing such as the one at the junction of Fortis Green, Tetherdown, Fortis Green Road and Queens Avenue, so that all can cross safely and cars can turn right.

Deborah Granville
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.

Blinded by the light
Dear Editor,

Domestic security lights are becoming something of an issue in the county roads. Several neighbours have complained of their back gardens and bedrooms being lit by a motion-activated beam with the strength of a searchlight waking not only the birds in the middle of the night but them too.

While I understand homeowners' concerns about possible intrusions, is it necessary to have lights with such intensity? And could they not be angled down rather than straight across at the opposite house?

I live in the county roads and am often woken by a beam that penetrates two layers of thick curtain, and both my neighbours have strong lights that are activated at random times. While these two are not of the searchlight variety, surely security lights should provide only the minimum level of illumination necessary to light householders' own properties?

Every security lighting website I investigated advises fitting a hood or shield to control and limit the light to the area to be lit. One said: "Whilst you may be happy with a light that illuminates half the street your neighbours may not."

Additionally, it has been proved without doubt that domestic lights affect the natural world detrimentally. So perhaps we can revisit our approach to movement activated lighting and be a bit more considerate to our neighbours and to the birds!

Name and address supplied

On the borderline
Dear Editor,

Following your article about a driver being wrongly given a penalty notice for turning right at the East End Road junction with the High Road, on two occasions we have had Barnet Council issue us with penalty charge notices for parking outside our own house. We live in Southern Road and our house is the border house between N2 and N10. Our car is parked right outside and it has a valid parking permit.

Who wants to live to 100?



Human behaviour: Professor Catherine Loveday gives a talk at the Age UK Barnet centre in Oak Lane, N2

By Amaya Shankardass

In 1986, the rock band Queen released a song, asking us "Who Wants to Live Forever?" Well, while we let technology handle society's search for ever longer lives, perhaps it is more prudent to ask ourselves "Who wants to live to 100, and how do you want to spend those years?"

That is a question that the charity Age UK deals with every day. It says its mission is to "change how we age" by helping over-55s embrace and enrich the years that lie ahead of them.

Their Barnet branch, based in Oak Lane, East Finchley, offers an impressive range of activities including community talks, exercise classes, social walks, art and cooking classes, a lunch club, and IT classes.

In the mind

A regular speaker is Professor Catherine Loveday, a leading neuropsychologist from the University of Westminster, regular on BBC Radio 4's *All in the Mind*, and former trustee of the charity. Her talks have explored the importance of sleep, improving your everyday memory, curating life stories, and unlocking the power of music.

"By uncovering the mysteries of the brain, Professor

Loveday gives us the tools to live better, healthier lives as we age," says Age UK Barnet CEO Helen Newman. "She supports our commitment to lifelong learning, mental wellbeing, and staying socially engaged, all key ingredients for a fulfilling later life."

Better with age

Life doesn't have to slow down when you get older. Research has demonstrated that certain skills improve with age, including vocabulary, problem-solving, and conflict resolution (if you're looking for a win on family game night, crosswords may be the way to go...).

The next free talk is a Q&A with Dr Andrea Oskis on "*The connection between food, memory and relationships*" on Wednesday 4 June 2025 from 6.45pm to 8pm. To register, contact Teresa Gallagher at teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 07502 989403.

Additionally, the Age

UK website provides crucial information and advice, from handyperson contacts to benefit payments, which simplify stressful tasks. For further information and services about Age UK, head to www.ageukbarnet.org.uk or call 020 8203 5040.

Lasting bonds amongst darkness and chaos



Safe sanctuary: East Finchley residents Michael Byrne, Stanislava Klymova and her host Maxine Klein, Aliona Donetska and her host Sarah Stafford, and Councillor Arjun Mittra at the House of Commons reception hosted by Sarah Sackman MP

By Lynn Winton

East Finchley residents were well represented at a special evening in the Jubilee Room at the House of Commons. Finchley and Golders Green MP Sarah Sackman invited local organisation Driving Aid to Ukraine to partner the event and together they welcomed a packed room of the Ukrainians who had found a haven in Barnet, along with community groups, host families and aid volunteers.

Sarah said: "I'm proud that in 2023 Barnet became a borough of sanctuary, hosting over 1,000 Ukrainian refugees, and we pooled together to help them build new lives, even as war rages. I am so proud to be your MP. Slava Ukraini!"

Guest speaker Michael Byrne, of Driving Aid to Ukraine, gave an update on how many vital tons of humanitarian aid he's getting into Ukraine. Many of the new Ukrainian residents were emotional after the warm and supportive speeches and were overwhelmed to be invited to Westminster.

Sarah reflected after the event: "It was an evening of music, dancing, and laughter, where young Ukrainian residents could form lasting bonds. Amidst the dark and chaotic geopolitical landscape, it was heart-warming to see people coming together in a show of strength and hope."

St Mary's Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Peter-Michael Scott.

finchleyeast@rcdow.org.uk

**MASS TIMES:**

SATURDAY: 5pm

SUNDAY: 8:30am

10am (*Family Mass*)

12 noon.

WEEKDAY MASS AT 10pm: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

TO HIRE ONE OF THE CHURCH HALLS: please ring 0208 883- 4324 (during office hours - 10am to 2pm every weekday except Wednesday). We do not accept bookings for children's parties.