



Letters



Daubed: Graffiti on the Long Lane Pasture noticeboard

Nasty rash

Dear Editor

There seems to be an absolute rash of graffiti, notably along the High Road.

Upsettingly, we have been targeted on Long Lane Pastures. It's run by volunteers, and frankly, we have more than enough to do, without dealing with these idiotic tags. Also, as a nature reserve, the chemicals in them (and in removing them) are very toxic to wildlife.

Please could responsible residents of East Finchley adopt a zero-tolerance approach by cleaning any graffiti they see as soon as possible. Like litter, more breeds more.

Linda Dolata
Leopold Road

Knock off

Dear Editor

You published a letter in your October issue from a reader talking about people knocking on the door offering to clean the gutters. From reading the letter, I think they had a lucky escape from what could have been a big bill and very ugly incident.

I first worked in the construction industry in 1975, so I have a little bit of experience. May I give your readers some advice.

If ANYONE knocks on your door saying you need your roof, walls, windows, drains, driveway, etc, etc, etc fixing and they can do it cheap, ALWAYS say no. It is a scam. Even if you do need work doing NEVER (and I mean never) say yes to cold-calling 'tradespeople', however convincing they may seem. If you do, you will regret it.

There is a huge shortage of good tradespeople in this area, subsequently all the good guys are always busy and have plenty of work. If we do get a last-minute cancellation (a line the scammers often use), we either start the next job early or say 'great I can have a day off'.

So, ask yourself why would we go knocking on doors? We don't. The only people that do that are the scammers, the cheats and the cowboys.

Andy (surname supplied)
Long Lane 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.

Our new advice column: Ask Joy

Email Joy at askjoyatthearcher@gmail.com.

Something has happened and you don't know what to do. You don't feel comfortable talking to anyone in your family about it and you're worried that your friends won't understand. It's making you feel miserable and you don't know where to turn. You've looked online, but none of the advice is relatable. So now it's time to do something different.



Design by @archnote

Here at The Archer, we are introducing an advice column to give help and support. Joy is a trained counsellor and an East Finchley resident and she'll be tackling issues that matter now.

No problem is too big or too small to be shared. Every email will be answered by Joy and we will anonymise those that go into print, so confidentiality is assured.

Joy trained as a counsellor in the 1990s and worked in education for 20 years with young people and parents. She has many years' experience of listening and problem-solving. It's always good to talk, so don't hesitate to reach out.

Write to Joy at the email address at the top of this article and she will do her best to give advice each month.

Dear Joy,

I've been divorced for about three years. It was an extremely messy break-up, but I'm out the other side and would like to meet someone new. I'm 48 and all my friends are in long-term relationships, so I feel a bit isolated. They keep telling me to try online dating, but I just don't think I can face it. Work and kids keep me very busy, but I do miss adult company and, if I'm really honest, I also miss sex. Is going online my only option? F.

Dear F,

You've survived divorce, well done! You've talked about wanting a new relationship, but also about feeling isolated within your friendship group.

Perhaps getting yourself to a happier place, building new friendships and finding things that you enjoy doing outside of family life, could be your first priority.

Adding someone into the mix when you already have a life you like is often the best recipe for success. You're not placing all your happiness eggs in one relationship basket and that's important.

You will feel more relaxed about the whole thing and, as a result, make better dating decisions. Maybe then this is a good time to do a life review. You're not the same person you were when you met your ex-husband.

You're older, wiser, more experienced. You've survived divorce and its fall-out and you're a parent. All these things impact on what type of relationship will work for you now. Going online to meet new people opens up a world of possibility. Rather than waiting for life to happen to you,

you're taking control, which is empowering. Online dating isn't always easy and there will be disappointments along the way, but with so many options to choose from, I think you have a good chance of finding what you need online. Good luck, and here are some starting points:

- www.meetup.com – a way to connect with people with shared interests
- bumble.com – a platform to make new friends as well as find a new partner
- uk.match.com – a long-established dating website

Artists explore the shadow side of life

East Finchley Open Artists is this month presenting *The Colour of Shadows*, a group exhibition of painting, photography, printmaking, glass and ceramics.

Inspired by the poetic pull of shadow, the artists say they are exploring cool-warm colour shifts that create depth and recession, twilight silhouettes that hint at memory and place, and the fleeting reflections where light meets surface. From intimate studies to bold abstractions, the show invites visitors to see how colour gives shadow

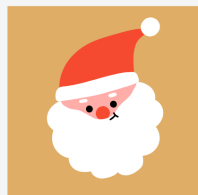
its mystery and mood. It's also an ideal opportunity to find original, affordable art and craft gifts ahead of Christmas and the holiday season.

The show runs at **The Original Gallery**, Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, London N8 9JA on weekdays 1pm–5pm and Sundays 12pm–4pm **from Tuesday 4 to Sunday 16 November**.



On show: Lemon Groves in Ischia, by Ann Froomberg

ST MARY'S



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Sunday 30 November 2025 | 11am–2pm
Parish Hall 279 High Road N2 8HG