



Letters

Rubbish collections

Dear Editor,

Your front page in August ('High Road rubbish still a mess') makes me wonder how a reliable waste collection service can't be organised in this day and age. Our household rubbish service is generally excellent but it seems to fall apart when it comes to the shops and flats on our main road.

This must be down partly to so many different waste contractors being involved, all on different days, and to the fact that no one has checked if the existing bins have enough capacity to take all the rubbish that is generated along this busy stretch.

You mention that local councillors and the East Finchley Town

Team are looking around to try to learn from other areas that don't have this problem.

Can I suggest they look further afield to a city like Barcelona where apartment blocks and shops occupy the whole of the central part of the city.

Here, citizens and shopkeepers are asked to place their rubbish in large communal bins positioned at every road junction. These have heavy lids to keep the smells in and the wildlife out. They are also emptied daily and as a result the streets are generally tidy and pleasant.

Mike Howarth
Long Lane, N2



Pile up: Are rubbish collections working?

A better 603

Dear Editor,

After some initial progress, our efforts to improve the 603 bus between Muswell Hill and Swiss Cottage via East Finchley are once again facing resistance. We need as many local voices as possible to be heard.

If you have five minutes, please write to your local councillor and Greater London Authority representative and ask them to support improvements to the 603.

Our asks are simple: a more frequent service using single-decker buses and a new early morning 603 bus with a first leg from Muswell Hill, passing Highgate Village around 7am and arriving at Swiss Cottage around 7.20am.



Better service: The 603 bus

This will bring teachers, staff and early club members to schools, plus employees, medical workers and patients to the Jubilee and Metropolitan lines and both branches of the Northern line, NW3 and beyond.

We are also asking for a second leg return to Muswell Hill by 8.45am and an additional afternoon bus between the existing two 603 afternoon runs.

You can find your Councillor and London Authority Representative here: www.writetothem.com. Please tell them why the 603 matters to you. Personal stories about difficult school journeys, traffic, air pollution or the lack of a direct public transport option are far more powerful than form letters.

The case for improving the 603 is strong. It is the only direct route between Swiss Cottage and Muswell Hill, via East Finchley, connecting two school-dense

Christine McKenzie,
603 Watch Group

Sunflower summer

Dear Editor,

It's been another fantastic sunflower summer thanks to the efforts of the Church Lane Community Gardeners in East Finchley. Passers-by have commented with pleasure at the return of the nodding giants.

As well as being a great source of enjoyment, sunflowers have true superpowers. They were planted at Chernobyl and Fukushima after their nuclear accidents to absorb radiation and cleanse the ground.

Hopefully this won't be necessary in East Finchley but their summer residency has brought great pleasure including to Ernie and Rufus from Long Lane, who track their progress on the way to school and nursery.

Judith,
Church Lane Community gardeners



High points: Ernie and Rufus among the sunflowers

Never give up

Dear Editor,

I wrote a book recently called *Battered*. It's a story about survival and hope, after growing up in a narcissistic household and pursuing a career in the police and fire services.

As an ex-Finchley resident and passing through East Finchley tube station regularly after my pleasant walk through Cherry Tree Wood, I deposited a few copies in the book swap cabinet in the foyer for anyone to pick up.

It's a book with themes of surviving trauma and never giving up and is available from Foyles, Waterstones and Amazon.



Published: Gary's book

Gary Leighton,
Address supplied

To the rescue

Dear Editor,

I would very much appreciate you printing this letter as I would like to thank the very kind lady who booked and paid for an Uber cab for me to get to an appointment on Friday 14 August. I was waiting for the 102 bus in the High Road not realising that they were on strike and panicking as there was no other way to get there. She came to my rescue. If she gets in touch I will gladly pay her for the fare.

Anne Lewis,
Address supplied

Editor's note: If you were the kind lady who helped Anne, please email news@the-archer.co.uk and we will pass on your details.

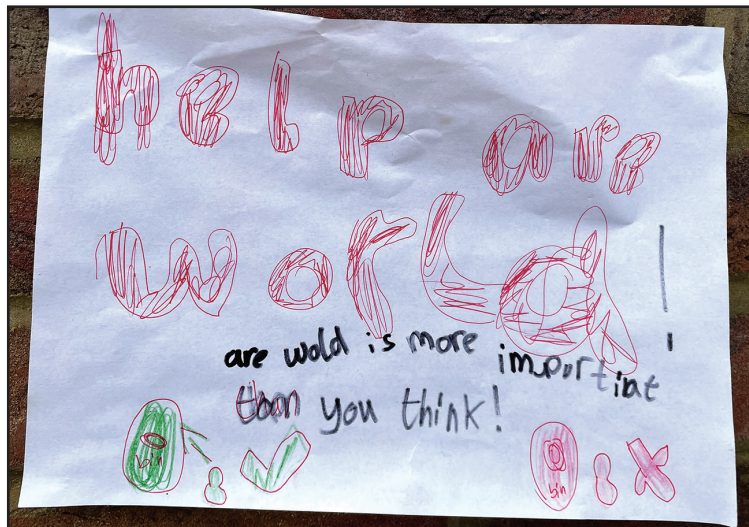
Take note

Dear Editor,

As I was walking my dog this morning I caught sight of this waist-high drawing appealing to all of us. It was in the alley way leading from Durham Road to Creighton Avenue. Please could it

be included in your next edition? The artist may possibly come forward and be given their due credit.

Louisa Piccirillo Kadri,
Address supplied



Message to us all: The hand-drawn poster spotted by Louisa

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