



Letters to the Editor

Where did Archie's arrow go?

Dear Editor,

The statue that *THE ARCHER* is named after, nicknamed Archie for obvious reasons, has long been a local landmark. As a child, I assumed it was a show-off artwork, as if to say "Our trains are as fast as an arrow". Only in my teens did I learn it was to mark what was at the time the longest tunnel in the world, from East Finchley to Morden via Bank. It remained the world's longest for many years and, until the opening of the Channel Tunnel, it was the longest in Europe.

I sometimes wondered if there was another sculpture at the other end of the tunnel in Morden. Benedict le Vey, who wrote the guidebook *Eccentric London* which mentions the statue, said he thought there should be a shield with an arrow stuck in it.

More recently, I learned there was originally a much more subtle sculpture at Morden, a gold painted arrow on display at the station to mark the other end of the tunnel and, presumably, the flight of the arrow (surely a world record for distance as well). Sadly, it was stolen not long after the opening of the tunnel.

What became of it? Where is it now? If anyone has any information, please let me know via *THE ARCHER*. I'm sure Archie would appreciate the recovery of his arrow.

Yours faithfully,
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Fortis Green, N2.

Thanks for such kindness

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the gentleman who stopped to help me when I tripped and fell on the pavement of Long Lane near the Fire Station on 12 June around 8.40am. I didn't get his name at the time. My thanks also to Amanda, who lives in Kitchener Road, who also helped me the whole time. I would also like to thank the two paramedics Mark and Ivan, of the Mill Hill Ambulance Service, who took me to the Royal Free Hospital A&E afterwards. They were all so kind to me. Thank you all so much.

Yours faithfully,
Rose Godfrey
Address supplied

If you were the good Samaritan who helped Mrs Godfrey in Long Lane, please leave your details with *The Archer* so that she can thank you personally. Call 08717 334465 or email the-archer@lineone.net.

Through bus route needed

Dear Editor,

I am a frequent user of the 263 bus and I welcome the suggestion to extend the route to the Nag's Head (*THE ARCHER*, June 2008). However, I think that East Finchley lacks a direct bus route to central London. Neighbouring Muswell Hill benefits from two such routes, whereas East Finchley residents who cannot afford the tube have to change at Archway, which adds up to 10 minutes to the journey.

Yours faithfully,
Dovydas Kiauleikis
Lincoln Road, N2

Don't destroy our health services

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your front page report about changing the services at Finchley Memorial Hospital in North Finchley and the possible effects this may have on GPs and pharmacies in East Finchley (*THE ARCHER*, June 2008).

I must say that I agree with the pharmacist you interviewed. Having a large health centre that is drawing in patients from around the region will undoubtedly mean we will lose the local health services as we know them now.

Some doctors will move to the new centre, some services will only be offered there, and our high street pharmacists will have added competition.

The beauty of the doctors' surgeries we have now is that they are local. They are relatively easy for older people and parents with young children to get to. Once this convenience disappears, we will never get it back.

I can see many advantages in having an efficient health centre at Finchley Memorial Hospital but I would urge the powers that be behind the development to ensure that once it is up and running our local GPs and pharmacists can carry on running as they do now.

Yours faithfully,
Julian Hammond,
High Road, N2

We don't need another supermarket

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the letter in the June issue of *THE ARCHER* which pinpointed why we, the local residents of East Finchley, should welcome yet another supermarket in Stag Court. There is no doubt this letter was written in all sincerity by yet another shop owner who has noticed an empty unit in a nice location.

I was surprised, however, to read that the businessman in question does not live in East Finchley itself. If he had done a true survey of what all the local residents really want for the High Road he would have found that we do not want another supermarket, of which we possess many, both small and large, or another estate agent or restaurant or café, but shops of good quality merchandise that will bring us up-to-date and on a par with Hampstead and Muswell Hill.

There is such a diverse market out there: we need a butcher, and what about a greengrocer that sells nothing but fruit and veg, or there are carpets, curtains, furniture, clothes - the list is endless. We are ready and hungry for some real local shopping but, please, not another supermarket.

Yours faithfully,
Pauline Dorrington,
Address supplied.



Mrs Florence Adkin
photographed last Christmas

Happy Hundredth

By Daphne Chamberlain
Mrs Florence Adkin, of Park Hall Road, celebrated her 100th birthday on 24 May in an unexpected place. Her family had planned a party at the Five Bells, but at the last moment the venue changed to Barnet General Hospital.

Mrs Adkin suffered a fall just before the great day, and spent three weeks in hospital. Her daughter Pam was full of praise for the staff of Larch Ward. "They treated her like a queen," she told *THE ARCHER*. "We had a party in a separate room, with a buffet and drinks. Mum had a lovely cake and a small sherry. They discovered the reason why she had fallen, and now she takes regular medication for the first time in her life."

The last surviving member of a family of 12 ("six of each"), Mrs Adkin still has many relatives. Pam told us that her mum has always been a very private person. She has been unable to get out and about recently, but the family hope there may still be people around who remember her.

Mrs Adkin, originally from Fulham, moved to East Finchley in 1938, and has lived in the same house ever since. *THE ARCHER* sends congratulations and best wishes.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", *The Archer*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

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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.



Give young people a chance

By Helene Davidian

At 'The Leader Listens' event on 21 January at Bishop Douglass School I was eagerly looking forward to seeing what could be achieved by the meeting. I asked Council leader Mike Freer the first question of the evening about youth provision in general and East Finchley in particular. After all, the Herbert Wilmott Centre is no more, and youth workers are thin on the ground.

Imagine my dismay when our leader informed me that East Finchley was one of the best-provided wards in the borough. I would like to know how much of that so-called provision for teenagers is provided by the council. As yet, I haven't managed to find any, although I am very willing to be proved wrong.

The young are our future and unless we address their needs and treat them with respect, patience and tolerance, I fear for that future.

Councillor Freer's written reply of 15 May states that "the council involved young people in its decisions around youth service provision through surveys...[and]...representatives on various boards." We all know, however, that disaffected young people would not be filling in surveys or sitting on boards.

I feel that only with sensitive, trained youth workers of the calibre of Liam Murphy, who used to work at the Herbert Wilmott Centre, and some non-denominational provision, for instance through a community centre or library, will change happen.

Many years ago, I tried to campaign for a children's play area for my estate around Elmhurst Crescent and hoped that we could have some sort of communal meeting place on our estate to enable residents to get together to solve problems but, most importantly, to allow youngsters of different age groups to get together. The teenagers in particular need a 'den' to gather in, perhaps with a kettle, and with visits from youth workers on occasion.

While I appreciate Mike Freer's approach in meeting people in each ward of the borough to address their issues, and I'm sure he means very well, I feel that this particular issue of youth provision needs much more attention than he and the council seem prepared to give it, if we are to have a decent future in Barnet.

Prunella winner

The winner of our Prunella Scales competition in our May edition was Mrs Marlene Sloan, of Homefield Gardens, N2. Mrs Sloan won two tickets to see *An Audience with Prunella Scales and Friends* at artsdepot, North Finchley, last month.

The correct answer to our question was that Prunella Scales is married to the actor Timothy West. Thank you to everyone who sent in entries.

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