



Letters

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net.

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.

Keep going, Archer

Dear Editor,

The Archer is the only newspaper available to me that carries good news and information about our community that makes me feel better for reading it.

Living as we do in a '24-hour news' society, much of what passes for news is either speculation or scandal with subjects flogged to death to fill in the gaps. The only good news allowed is either a royal wedding or a royal baby.

So keep going The Archer, so that we aren't driven barmy by the media!

Yours faithfully,

Verity Smith

Sutton Road, N10.

He was shaking the door...

Dear Editor,

In light of the recent burglaries in Sedgemere Avenue, N2, and the recent newsletter that was given out about the crime in the street, I want to report an old Chinese food delivery man who was banging on my neighbour's door on Friday 31 January.

He was insisting that someone had ordered a takeaway, only the neighbours had moved out two days beforehand and there was a 'to let' sign up outside the property.

This was no ordinary delivery man, as his hand was inside their letterbox and he was physically shaking the whole door as if to check if the Chubb lock had been put on. He wasn't double parked and it was heavy rain that night and he casually walked off. This incident was reported to the police.

Yours faithfully,

Name and address supplied.

Hospital hard to access

Dear Editor,

I fully support Brian Pearce's request for a bus service which drops regular patients at the entrance to the new Finchley Memorial Hospital and hopefully picks them up again later.

I have also struggled to walk the long distance from the 263 only service from East Finchley when I visited the new hospital building soon after a heart operation to find out whether or not they would still be having a hearing-aid clinic.

Obviously one can arrange hospital transport, taxis or drive but as we get older this becomes more difficult, expensive and time-wasting.

Pedestrians have been ignored as the distance from the bus stops is greater than with the old hospital entrances which were nearer to the main road.

I don't think that Dial-A-Ride Buses are allowed to use hospital car parks so one needs a regular normal bus service on which one can travel independently in our own time.

Basically this area has been ignored as far as bus travel is concerned between Archway and Barnet so that overcrowding occurs to shopping areas also. There were originally three routes which had direct services without the necessity of changing buses.

Yours faithfully,

Jeanne Wray,

Address supplied.



The lazy brown fox...

Dear Editor,

Here is something you don't see every day! I opened my bedroom curtains on 22 January and was astounded by this sight from a neighbour's back garden. At first I thought it was the usual ginger cat that sits there, then on closer inspection I could see it was a fox. I picked up my camera and went down to the balcony, as I opened the door he/she looked up and I clicked. About half an hour later the sun had come out and it was still there, on top of the shed, so I went back down to the balcony and clicked again. The fox lay there all day up until 4ish in the afternoon. People came and went from next door garden and from my house, and the fox just stayed. Amazing!! Just thought you would like to see it. It certainly cheered me up for the day.

Yours faithfully,

Rhona Bower,

Market Place, N2.

Yes, we need a bus!

Dear Editor,

I was most interested to read your article concerning direct buses to Finchley Memorial Hospital (THE ARCHER, February 2014). I have recently had a total hip replacement and so cannot walk very far without assistance and have to take taxis now to FMH as there is no direct bus, which is costing me a fortune! I absolutely agree there should be a direct bus. I pay the council £140 per year to be able to park outside my own house so why don't they use that revenue to actually help us?

Yours faithfully,

Cecilia Boosey,

Address supplied.

Recycling bags are a right old mess

Dear Editor,

We have been trying since 16 January to get new recycle bin bags from Barnet Council. At first we were told it would be a week to 10 days and we had a reference number (phone call number one). Then that got lost when we were told we had used too many bags, despite us explaining that it had been the season of Christmas packaging and parties (phone call number two).

Then we were told we could not use ordinary bin bags or put the recycling material in the dust bin (phone call number three). Then someone on the other end admitted it was a big mess and Barnet could not possibly deliver all the bags people needed in good time (phone call number four).

Solution: When the recycling team pick up the full bags on Thursdays in our neighbourhood

(but not from our house because we don't have any!) could they not carry around a supply of new ones for those in need? Householders could put up a red flag or some such if they needed a new supply. Might save man hours, avoid chaos, prevent the pile-up of materials to be recycled in our garden as we wait and wait...???

Yours faithfully,

Mary Poulter,

Address supplied.

My cat was shot too

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Sandra Li's article in the February edition of THE ARCHER entitled Someone Shot My Cat. Our cat was similarly shot with an air gun last July. Unfortunately she was not so lucky as the pellet ricochet in her abdomen caused internal damage and we had to have her put down. It was the most despicable of crimes, utterly heartless, pointless and cruel.

The police created a case number but told us that there was little hope of catching the perpetrator, as there were no witnesses, no CCTV images and no evidence. It had rained heavily that night, so our cat's tracks were washed away.

The police say that many such crimes go unreported, as often the animal crawls under a hedge and cannot be found afterwards. We live in the Suburb, close to Elmshurst Crescent, where Sandra's cat was harmed. Could it have been the same person who harmed both cats?

Yours faithfully,

Anne Sklar

Address supplied.

Poorer service for years to come

Dear Editor,

The Mayor's plans to close all London Underground ticket offices and cut 950 staff are a big mistake. His broken pledge to keep ticket offices open has led to strikes and if Boris Johnson gets his way, passengers face disruption and a poorer service for years to come.

Closing ticket offices which are only used by 3 per cent of passengers does not sound much of a problem, but this translates to over 100,000 people a day needing assistance to sort out issues which machines can't solve.

Ticket offices provide a reassuring focus point where you know you can find someone, somebody to help disabled or elderly passengers down to the platform, to take charge in an emergency, to offer directions or help victims of crime.

Whilst there is some merit to the

argument that using new technology can make staff more accessible, the Mayor's plans combine ticket office closures with a huge reduction in employees. Fewer staff will be in each station and when they are wandering about, we may, or may not, be lucky enough to bump into them.

With record numbers using the tube and a massive predicted increase in passenger numbers these cuts to staffing are unnecessary, unsafe and unworkable.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Johnson,

Green Party Member of the London Assembly

Can we fix it? No!

Dear Editor

The front page headline of the February 2014 edition of THE ARCHER suggests the Barnet Council FixMyStreet website works. My experience would suggest the opposite.

In August 2013 I submitted a request via this website for removal

of litter. Barnet Council did not fix my street.

In November 2013 I resubmitted the litter removal request and highlighted the additional problem of leaves that were causing the pavement to become slippery and blocking the drains. Barnet Council did not fix my street.

In early January 2014 I gave up on the website and rang the council to ask them to clear the street of litter and leaves. I am still waiting for Barnet Council to fix my street.

Yours faithfully,

Frances Buckingham

Elmfield Road, N2.



Local dogs meet up for a Sunday walk on Hampstead Heath with All Dogs Matter. Photo Mike Coles

Dogs having their day

By Sheila Armstrong

The sound of wolf-like howls is not what you might expect on a Sunday morning outside Hampstead Heath station. On 16 February it was howling from Huskies, not wolves, that heralded the start of the 4th All Dogs Matter Valentine's Charity Walk. In a gap between the rain storms our local charity for abandoned and rescued dogs and their friends, canine and human, turned out for an exceptionally pleasant sunny walk. The event raised nearly £1,000.

Meeting at the Garden Pub in South End Green lots of friendly and excited dogs, many rescued and rehomed by ADM, were keen to get going. But first there were friends to be greeted, noses to be rubbed, news to be exchanged and cake to be sampled. And after registration with Ira, who runs ADM, the doggy procession started across the Heath in high spirits.

Fostering and rehoming

126,000 stray dogs were handled by local authorities in 2011. But between April 2012 and March 2013, the numbers collected across the country fell to just under 112,000, according to The Dogs Trust.

All Dogs Matter rehome 250 dogs a year, many from council dog pounds in North London. And their newsletter reminds all local dog lovers that ADM urgently needs foster carers to help look after unwanted and abandoned dogs while they await a permanent home. It's the best gift they can ever get: you are giving them a chance for new life and for a new

forever home! You can be a fosterer even if you have your own dogs or children. Children must be at least 8 years old and above. ADM will carefully match the dogs with the right foster homes.

For more information please contact the charity at www.alldogsmatter.co.uk or info@alldogsmatter.co.uk

Open mic nights

The relaxed, friendly music nights at The Raglan Hotel in Queens Avenue, Muswell Hill, are proving a hit.

Organiser Cecilia Holmes is pleased with audience attendance and participation. "We like people to join in with song, no more excuses to stay home on a Monday night," she says.

Entry to the event is free. If you fancy a sing song, can play contemporary, classical or jazz music or if you write and perform your own material contact Cecilia on 07533750400.