



Letters

We asked readers what they wanted to see on the site of the Esso garage on the corner of the High Road and Church Lane, which is soon to close (*THE ARCHER*, July 2015).

Garage dreams

Dear Editor,

What do I want there? A large supermarket with a wide range. Or a proper hardware/DIY centre with a big range. Or a big Boots.

But best of all would be the compulsory purchase of Budgens and Iceland and the old Post Office site and their conversion from two stores, neither of which ever has what you really want, to one big superstore with underground parking.

Yours faithfully,
Tom Heinersdorff,
Deansway, N2.

Homes not shops

Dear Editor,

I'm a resident of Leopold Road. To your question, we definitely do not want a supermarket or any food shop on the Esso garage site on the High Road. There are more than enough already. The best use would be to build a nice block of flats for people to live in. This is what is really needed.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

All bets are off

Dear Editor,

Regarding the future use of the Esso garage site, I trust that no permission will be granted to any betting shops.

Yours faithfully,
Renzo Fantoni,
Address supplied.

Make it a playground

Dear Editor,

I would like to see a children's playground built on the site of the Esso filling station in East Finchley. I would like it to be to the same design as a plan I had for a jungle-themed playground at the top of the Tarling Road estate, which had a long-disused playground, that I tried to campaign to reopen, before the whole site was sold off for housing.

My plan would include safe, shock-absorbing surfaces, good fencing to protect children from traffic, adventurous play equipment and plenty of plant and flower beds around the playground.

Yours faithfully,
Jake Eiseman-Renyard,
Address supplied.

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.

Perfect pavements

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out that many residents on Fortis Green are delighted with the new pavements (*THE ARCHER*, July 2015). They are a great improvement on the very cracked and unsightly stones they replaced. The work was completed with the minimum inconvenience to residents, by very helpful workers. A job very well done.

Yours faithfully,
Jo McHenry,
Fortis Green, N2.

Happy shopper

Dear Editor,

I had to write to you about the exceptional service provided by our East Finchley Budgens. I have multiple sclerosis, and had a brain haemorrhage three years ago which further altered my already poor mobility.

I walk with two sticks and regularly totter round Budgens, where they are always kind and helpful, but, during the recent heat wave, they surpassed themselves.

The hot weather adversely affects my condition and, seeing the effort it took me to get out of my car and walk along the pavement, one of the assistants rushed to my aid, helped me into a chair at the door of the shop, and said that she had seen me struggling more than usual, and did I want to wait and she would run round and get my shopping for me!

I was so touched that I felt I had to write in praise. So thank you Tilly, and everyone else at the East Finchley Budgens: you are all amazing!

Yours faithfully,
Harriet Connides,
Address supplied.

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First class party for Postman Bob

By Eugene Myerson

Four years ago, Bob Konig retired from his delivery round in East Finchley after 42 years with Royal Mail. Around 300 grateful residents threw a farewell party for him at the time at the Aquarius Archery Club.

One reason why my neighbours and I admired Bob is that he was the most conscientious postman one could wish for, always prepared to "go the extra mile." Come rain, hail, sleet or snow, we could rely on Bob to deliver our mail without fail. In February 2010 *THE ARCHER* published an article headed 'The mail must get through' with a photo of Postman Bob pushing his trolley through snow.

Bob took holidays, but I cannot recall him ever being absent through illness. And his memory was phenomenal. Bob's friendly, cheerful and courteous manner endeared him to his "customers" in the Fortis Green area south of the former Police Station. I was one of them for 30 years.

Birthday tribute

Born in 1946, he spent his early years in Highgate, later moving to Hornsey. Now Bob is back in N6, in the Highgate Nursing Home, Hornsey Lane. He has motor neurone disease, and is confined to bed or a wheelchair. Despite this, he participates in every activity offered by the home, and has not lost his optimism or his prodigious memory.

On his recent 69th birthday, former Post Office van driver Ros Lusardi and I organised a tea party at the home, attended by former colleagues and residents. A musician played "Happy Birthday" while we sang. We gave him a birthday cake, a book stand that fits on his bed-table, and a framed photo of him accompanying an article in the Ham & High newspaper.

Ros rang Bobby afterwards to get his reaction: "First Class" and "Very pleased." It was the least we could do for this formerly active man who is still remembered with affection and respect.



Bob, pictured in 2010 battling through the snow to deliver his round. Photo by Martin Addison.

Review:

North London Sinfonia

By Sam Warner

A warm, summer's evening is perfect for a classical music concert focused on Spanish music, and on Saturday 4 July the North London Sinfonia orchestra brought their collective talents, including both amateur and professional musicians, to Highgate's United Reform Church.

The orchestra opened with early 19th century Bilbao composer Arriaga's *Symphony in D* in four movements; true proficiency was apparent from the off.

The piece was followed by *Variaciones sobre la Spagnoletta de Giles Farnaby* by Xavier Montsalvatge i Bassols,

surprisingly the first time the piece has been performed outside Spain. A distinctively Spanish feel was certainly apparent thanks to János Agócsi's plucking guitar. Combined with the orchestral swells, it uplifted the audience before the interval.

The many talents of the orchestra shone through in their second half performances of Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte* and *El amor brujo* (*Ballet in one act*) by Manuel de Falla y Matheu. Composed in 12 movements, the work soared with running



strings and dramatic force, and also dipped into serenity. The vocal talents of mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean were a powerful addition.

Though only an amateur orchestra, there is a pervasive sense of professionalism and passion within the North London Sinfonia. As they continue to showcase a variety of classical styles, their next concert in November cannot come soon enough. For more information, go to www.nlsinfonia.org

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