



Letters to the editor

Sainsbury's shocker Dear Editor,

I was recently made aware and was horrified to hear that Sainsbury's had made a bid for the corner bike shop and the restaurant next door, both leases are now up for renewal. East Finchley is renowned for its village atmosphere. Do we need another supermarket? We have Budgens and Iceland and no doubt business will be taken away from our local grocers and their wonderful variety of products. After all, there is a Sainsbury's ten minutes away in Muswell Hill. What I would like to see is maybe a butcher's. A few years back we had Toms the butcher. Or maybe a health food shop or another shoe shop. More ideas please! If you have any objections to yet another supermarket and/or have other ideas for the enhancement of our high street, please write to *THE ARCHER* and make them known.

Yours faithfully,
Jeanine Johnson,
Address supplied.

Why exclude Holy Trinity?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern at the Archer Academy's proposed changes to their admission policy which names several local primary schools as feeder schools, but not Holy Trinity Primary in Eagans Close, N2, a move which can only prove divisive in our wonderful local community. The initial meeting to investigate the possibility of a secondary school to serve local children was called many years ago by Sara Gibbins, then Chair of Governors at Brooklands. It was attended by governors from Hampstead Garden Suburb School, Martins AND Holy Trinity (represented by myself and Chris Hampson, who were parents and governors at the time). Although we succeeded in little more than getting Mick Quigley, then Deputy Director of Education, to listen to us, we were all signaling our JOINT desire to establish a local secondary school for LOCAL children. Although Martins parents later led the drive and succeeded in setting up the Archer Academy (a magnificent achievement), Holy Trinity parents were involved too. To exclude Holy Trinity, the neigh-

bouring school to the academy, as a feeder school is both divisive and discriminatory to pupils there, many of whom want to attend the Archer Academy, their local school.

I can only think that by excluding Holy Trinity as a feeder school they are making a judgement on parents' decision to send their children to a faith school, for whatever reason that may be. Sometimes it is simply because parents want a small one-form entry school. We should celebrate ALL our local schools and I would encourage the Archer Academy to follow its original remit, to provide a local school for local children. My teenage children are already at secondary school and so I seek no advantage for them; I seek equality of access for the pupils at Holy Trinity, who want to attend their local secondary school with their local friends.

Yours faithfully,
Rebecca Kellaway,
Leicester Road, N2.

Academy plan will divide the community

Dear Editor,

In 2013 the Archer Academy bid successfully to purchase land from Barnet Council to build its new N2 secondary school. This land was previously occupied by the Stanley Road playing fields and the Herbert Wilmot Youth Centre.

Wonderful news, land at the heart of the N2 community is to be used to build a much needed secondary school for the children of the community. The new school building lies alongside the Holy

Trinity School site, their boundary fences separated by a 2m-wide footpath.

The Archer Academy website states: "The Archer Academy aims to be an outstanding secondary school at the heart of our community, providing boys and girls from all backgrounds with the inspirational education they need to live successful and fulfilling adult lives."

However, the Academy is proposing to change its entry criteria for 2016/17, to establish feeder schools in order to limit the number of primary schools currently feeding the Academy and to make secondary transition simpler. Five local feeder schools have been identified in the proposal: two from NW11, two from N3, but just the Martin School from N2, leaving Holy Trinity School in N2 and on the Academy doorstep, excluded as a feeder school!

Could transition be simpler than from a school 2m away where most of the pupils live in N2 and walk to school?

Three local schools performed on the Lincoln Road stage at the recent East Finchley Christmas Festival: Martins School, Holy Trinity School and the Archer Academy, schools at the heart of the N2 community.

If these new proposals are accepted it will strike an arrow through the heart of the N2 community, dividing it by so much more than a 2m footpath.

Yours faithfully
Pauline Crilly,
Summerlee Avenue, N2.

Up to the minute

The clock that greets passengers using the Causeway entrance to East Finchley tube station hasn't worked for some time (or, to be more charitable, it's been accurate twice every 24 hours).

A reader asked us why, so a few days later we thought we'd check it out. Lo and behold, when we got to the station, the clock was in tick-tock shape again. So it's thanks to the station staff for fixing it and keeping us all bang on time.



Crumbling pavilion left in disarray

By Diana Cormack

A sign on the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood announced that a coffee bar would open there in spring 2014. People who wanted to see the place preserved and put to good use were heartened by this, unlike those who would have liked to see it razed to the ground. Many more may be in the latter camp now, since the building looks worse than ever.

Local residents are concerned about the state of disrepair, with health and safety being an issue due to people sleeping in the building and the problem of vandalism. Freestanding wire fencing and haphazardly placed hardboard do not prevent anyone from entering.

Theft and red tape

Many of the objects stored inside have been removed and some work has been done on the interior. All this stopped in December 2014 after a reported £10,000 worth of building materials and power tools were stolen from the site overnight.

However, the theft may not be what is preventing further progress. The lessee claims he wants to go ahead with the work but has been waiting for months for a Barnet Council official to sign a particular document. Meanwhile the Friends of Cherry

Tree Wood have been in contact with Barnet Council and it seems there are other building control issues to be sorted out before the refurbishment can continue.

Council statement

The council told *THE ARCHER*: "The pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood was leased to the tenant in February 2014 for 20 years with an initial rent-free period to enable them to refurbish the pavilion. Work began on the site but it soon became apparent the repairs needed were greater than anticipated. The tenant approached the council for additional funding to help finance the extra work. We have agreed to finance some parts of the work and the details are being finalised including building control requirements. As soon as these are completed it is anticipated the works will be able to begin again in the New Year."

Restore and relax for better health

By Sunnah Rose

As we settle into January we have probably committed ourselves to a month of relentless exercise, dieting and detoxing to get ourselves back in shape after what hopefully was a fun and loving festive season.

Good news! For better well-being in mind and body the best remedy is to relax. Restorative yoga is a gentle form of yoga that uses props to encourage a deep state of relaxation. By supporting various parts of your body with bolsters, blocks or blankets, you can fully surrender to the pose and relax every part of your body.

This type of yoga can help relieve the effects of chronic stress and gently move the spine to promote greater well-being. This can also trigger the parasympathetic nervous system, which means it rebalances you and helps your body's natural healing processes.

Sanctuary

I run a class of this type and it's a very slow-paced class which is suitable for everyone, old to young, beginner to expe-

rienced yoga practitioner. For many, the idea of coming along to a class and lying around in various positions being told to do absolutely nothing other than breathe and relax is too good to be true. Did you know, however, that we are actually able to stretch more when we relax and are more easily able to release tension?

This type of yoga offers a welcome sanctuary among all the madness of life. It is a mindful way to approach one's health and wellbeing, and helps prepare the mind and body for deep awareness and vitality for the new year.

Sunnah runs regular yoga and pregnancy yoga classes alongside monthly restorative yoga workshops, all in East Finchley. More details at www.stretchingpeople.co.uk.



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