



Letters to the editor



Refuse refusal

Dear Editor,

I was so pleased to see your recent highlighting of all the rubbish in East Finchley (*THE ARCHER*, May and June 2016). I have been taking photos, above, and sending them to the council for the past two years.

They sent someone to inspect the piles of rubbish at the High Road end of Huntingdon Road where a shopkeeper is refusing to use a commercial bin.

I have spoken to many of the shopkeepers and they are concerned and dismayed at how dirty the High Road has become generally. Thank you for spreading the awareness. We all have the power to keep things tidy.

Yours faithfully,
Lucie Ormerod,
Address supplied.

No badger but an owl

Dear Editor,

I fear your reader asking about the stone badger on East End Road (*THE ARCHER*, May 2016) might indeed be dreaming! However, if we were talking about the enormous fibreglass owl on the High Road circa 1974 that would be another matter! I'm sure many other readers know what I'm talking about!

Yours faithfully,
Helena Gless,
High Road, N2.

Editor's note: Has anyone got any memories or photos of this owl of which Helena speaks? Please send them our way by email to: the-archer@lineone.net, leave a message on freephone 0800 612 0748 or send them to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

Consider our council

Dear Editor,

Surely there must come a time when some improvements will come at Barnet Council. Consider these facts:

Barnet is going ahead with plans to emasculate its libraries, including East Finchley's, where children from the nearby council estate will be prevented from doing their homework. This contrary to all measures of local opinion, and contrary to everything expected of a council.

It has outsourced its library administration to Capita, who crashed all its library systems over a month ago and have only now managed to repair them. They never took backups.

Polling stations were issued with outdated voting lists, disen-

franchising voters in the recent elections. The top official has left his job as a result.

In Cherry Tree Wood, a disused large building is in a state of collapse and a danger to park users, but the council let it out over a year ago for re-development (to save the cost of demolishing it). It remains a wreck and no action to develop it has taken place. Furthermore, the park is regularly covered with litter due to lack of adequate rubbish bins.

If you park your car in Barnet for longer than three minutes without paying, you are likely to get a parking ticket. The parking wardens say that this is what they are told to do. Cash is no longer acceptable at meters but a cumbersome pay-by-phone system is in operation (taking up to 10 minutes a time for newcomers) This is the council's policy, which is adding to pressure on local shops to survive.

Yours faithfully,
Barry H White,
Address supplied.

Driver with attitude

Dear Editor,

On Sunday 15 May at 2.15pm I was on the 143 bus to Brent Cross from East Finchley. At the busy Hendon Way, one desperate minivan driver went in front of the bus signalling for help. His van was full of football fans, and one of them was a 55-year-old man having a heart attack. Our bus driver immediately asked for help by radio. He was very clear while passing all the information. He then drove just a few metres, leaving his passengers in safety and not disturbing the traffic as he parked on the bus retreat. It meant the ambulance would reach the man faster as the bus was not disturbing the busy Hendon Way. Our driver apologised to us, as he was given instructions to support the van driver. He was perfect in all his attitudes. My grateful respect for this very special driver, hopefully he saved a life!

Yours faithfully,
Melina Oliveira,
Address supplied.

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

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Parking zone comes under review ...again!

By Diana Cormack

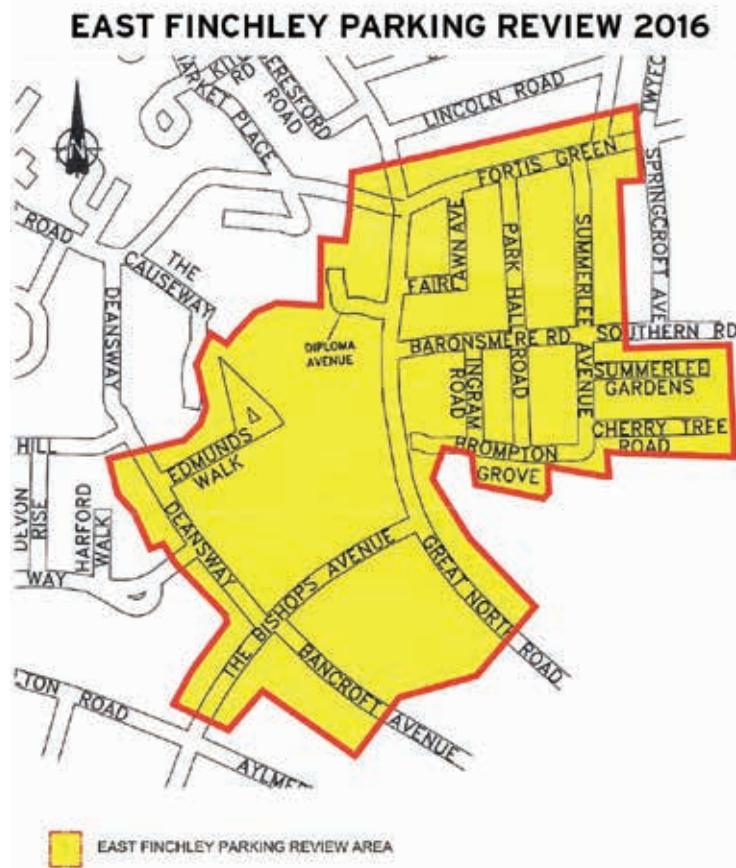
In 2004, when the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute moved into Park House opposite East Finchley tube station, surrounding streets saw a swingeing change in their Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) hours.

Barnet Council, envisaging an increased demand in parking by Institute users, instigated a change aimed at ensuring residents had adequate on-street parking whilst still allowing permit holders to park elsewhere in the East Finchley CPZ. So a one-hour-a-day restriction from 2pm-3pm Monday to Friday became an all-day restriction from 10am-6.30 pm Monday to Saturday.

Many objected to this, particularly local shopkeepers who are still affected by the Saturday controls even though the Institute is no longer in East Finchley. Some residents recall an 18-month review being mentioned at the time, but that never materialised. Over the years there have been reviews, none of which led to any changes, but they did show how the differing opinions in the community still remain.

Open-ended consultation

At the beginning of June a letter signed by 'Traffic and



Development' delivered to roads in the selected area (see map) stated: "The Council has been made aware of a request from residents of the Cherry Tree Wood Area within the existing all-day East Finchley CPZ for a change to the operational hours/days of the CPZ. In response to this, the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee decided that an informal consultation with residents of the area should be carried out."

This could be done either on-line or by requesting a paper copy by email or telephone. At the time of writing, neither the original letter nor the on-line survey provided a closing date for the consultation. A phone call to Traffic and Development revealed that it was 22 June. Hopefully the response to the questionnaire will not be skewed by this omission.

Libraries campaigners call off legal challenge

By Daphne Chamberlain

Library campaigners have decided not to make a legal challenge to Barnet Council's reorganisation of the service at the moment. The decision came after advice from lawyers.

Polly Napper, of East Finchley Library User Group (EFLUG), issued a statement explaining that going ahead with the challenge would have meant spending all their energy in fund-raising. This does not mean, however, that they are giving up the fight.

Battling on

Even though judicial action is on the back burner, campaigners are officially complaining to the Culture Secretary, using the 1964 Museums and Libraries Act to demand an inquiry into Barnet's plans. Unstaffed libraries are still a main focus. Maybe because of pressure from EFLUG, young GCSE pupils will now be admitted on their own, even if they have not reached 16, and all unstaffed libraries will have live CCTV cameras.

The users' groups are also backing Unison, the union for local government workers, in their fight to save staff jobs. Barnet's library reorganisation means many job losses, as well

as cutting professional help to library users.

Goodbye to Polly

EFLUG is now officially joining forces with Barnet's other library campaigners, and Polly Napper is stepping down from her co-ordinating role. She sends "an enormous thank you" to everyone who has helped in her 13-year campaign.

Library lovers owe a tremendous amount to Polly. She was one of the two people responsible for securing a Grade 2 listing for our library in 2003 and has worked with unflagging energy and enthusiasm ever since. In her final newsletter she said it was horribly sad to see the state of libraries now, but knows that many of the "wonderful people she has met will carry on the fight".

Erini Rodis will be taking over administration of the EFLUG/Save Barnet Libraries mailing list going forward. Follow developments on Facebook.

Serial flasher on the heath

By Janet Maitland

Police are looking for a man who indecently exposed himself to several women on Hampstead Heath in separate incidents during April and May.

The man, who is in his 30s or 40s, hides behind a bush waiting for women walking alone or in pairs to go past; then he emerges and exposes himself. Police are investigating six separate reports between 2 April and 10 May.

A police spokesperson said: "Most of the incidents have occurred in the middle of the day. The man doesn't say anything to the women. He is described as a white male, around 5ft 11ins tall, with average build, who often wears a hat. One victim described him as wearing a shiny black jumper with a zip and shiny black tracksuit bottoms. If you are approached by this man, call 999 immediately."

Any witnesses or anyone with any information should contact the police by ringing 101 and quoting reference number 2311184/16. To give information anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.