



Letters to the Editor



To be demolished? One of the houses and green areas that could make way for a new tower block in Prospect Ring.

Don't block us in Dear Editor,

As residents on the Prospect Ring estate for many years now we, like many others, are not happy with the proposed plans to build a new block (*The Archer*, June 2017) for diverse reasons although it is understandable that people have to be housed somewhere.

The prospect (no pun intended) of all the extra traffic on this estate, where parking is nigh on impossible now let alone with dozens more cars, plus the loss of light, privacy, trees, green parts and our garages are just a few of the aspects of this idea that concern many of us who live here.

The suggestion of a lower profile block which would not impede the light has been suggested and is much more acceptable. Our photo (above) shows one aspect including skyline which will be lost to us all should this go ahead as I am sure it will. The loss of the green parts is to be deplored as we are all urged to follow the "green" lifestyle now if possible.

Yours faithfully,
Mr P S Snook and Mrs M J Hillier,
Prospect Ring, N2.

Spoilt for choice

Dear Editor,

To add to the correspondence about branches of the University of the Third Age, readers should be aware that they are spoilt for choice here in the London Boroughs. As well as the new group about to open soon in the Suburb, and the North London U3A described in your June edition letters page, there are thriv-

ing branches in Harrow, Islington, Palmers Green and Southgate, Mill Hill and Barnet, to name but a few, and soon there will be another in Crouch End.

I am the Vice chairman of the oldest Branch of them all called "U3A in London" and we have been thriving for well over 30 years. All our 175 interest groups are based in the old Hampstead Town Hall in Belsize Park and our almost 2,000 members come from all over London.

Of course, you can join as many U3As as you like; they are all different and offer a wide variety of activities. Although, as their name suggests, they are aimed at people of retirement age, they are open to anyone no longer in full time employment and there is no upper or lower age limit.

So if you want to pursue a new interest or a favourite activity, you will find a group of like-minded people in more than one U3A. Our own telephone number is 020 7692 5440 and you are more than welcome to come along to any group to try it out and see if you like it. It's a wonderful way to make new friends!

Your faithfully,
Amalia Michaels,
Laurdale Road, N2.

Shame danger dog owners

Dear Editor,

Having read previous and numerous *Archer* letters regarding careless owners of aggressive dogs and experienced them myself, I wondered if we might start a cam-

paign taking photos (if available) and posting them on social media.

My own most recent trauma occurred a few weeks ago with a dog tethered by the flower beds outside Budgens. I was walking my own elderly disabled dog who cowered whilst the tied dog vigorously wagged its tail. I approached and stroked her, when it grasped my hand and started biting it.

I waited until the dog's owner emerged from Budgens and politely told him what had occurred. He retorted aggressively that she didn't like people touching her. When I suggested that as children and others might approach her with similar consequences and perhaps a muzzle was wise, he became even more defensive.

As he was obviously a local resident I do think pictures of such incidents might name and shame these reckless owners. Clearly in the circumstances it isn't possible to read the dog's name disc.

Yours faithfully,
Name and address supplied.

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

Hunt for new treasurer

The Finchley Society is urgently seeking a new Honorary Treasurer. The well-respected group which works to protect the areas of Finchley and Friern Barnet needs a computer-literate accountant or book-keeper who is willing to give a couple of hours per month to look after its financial affairs.

The Finchley Society keeps a close eye on planning and environmental issues, and mounts campaigns where necessary on issues such as saving historic buildings from demolition. It has around 400 members.

If you would like to know more about the role, contact Rosemary Crampton by email at treasurer@finchleysociety.org.uk or Mick Crick by telephone on 020 8445 3466.

The medicine of words

By Daphne Chamberlain

Shereen Abdallah, pictured, is a pharmacist, and also a poet (a good tradition: John Keats was a medical student). In the preface to her first book *Sky Trees*, which is launched this month, she asks herself why she writes poetry. Her answer is to understand better.



Most of us will understand her "songs", as she calls them. Songs about universal emotions, personal experiences, London places, overheard conversations. I nodded in recognition, sometimes laughed out loud, and appreciated her use of language.

Shereen told *The Archer* she is also co-writing and directing an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* for the autumn production of the Hampstead Players.

Hear Shereen's poetry for yourself at its launch at 7pm on Saturday 15 July at East Finchley Methodist Church, 197 High Road (opposite Creighton Avenue). Admission is £8 (concessions £5) which includes a copy of the book. For further details, contact Shereen on 07855 274138 or at s4shereen70k@yahoo.co.uk. *Sky Trees*, ISBN 978-0-9956896-9-2, is published by the Leslie Road Press.

Inspired by Wimbledon? Start with mini-tennis

By Diana Cormack

On the eve of Wimbledon fortnight, a tennis event was introduced for the first time at East Finchley's Community Festival using the courts in Cherry Tree Wood.

Linda Jones, who lives on Park Hall Road, is well qualified to organise such an event as she is a manager and coach at the David Lloyd Centre in North Finchley. She also runs tennis classes at local schools such as Martin and Tetherdown.



On court: Linda Jones

In her own school days Linda excelled at tennis, when she played for Somerset and for the GB Junior team. She spent two years in Houston, Texas, on a tennis scholarship, going on to play in the Wales/GB tennis team, thanks to her Welsh parentage.

Linda is keen to introduce children to tennis at an affordable price. She has set up Kidz 4 Tennis with this aim and is enthusiastic about teaching them through mini-tennis.

With impressive plans for the courts in Cherry Tree Wood, Linda is trying to get

Barnet to resurface them and is looking for the funding needed for site improvements.

Should lessons for youngsters be established there, adult training would follow. For more information email linz6@hotmail.co.uk

Search online for the Great British Tennis Weekend, another chance to enjoy free tennis training. Locally this is scheduled for Sunday 23 July from 2pm to 5pm in Cherry Tree Wood.

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