



Letters to the Editor

Crossing is not safe Dear Editor,

I live in Ossulton Way and crossing at the bottom of Ossulton Way by Barclays Bank is not safe (*The Archer*, May 2017). The problem is the lights are red but cars come from two different directions, down and round to the right from Ossulton and from Kingsley Way turning right when crossing. Although I am in my 60s I am fairly fit but I have to keep a close eye on what's coming round the corners when crossing. I can understand why the poor lady of 96 did not make it but it is also up to the drivers to watch out and not speed around the corners. Transport for London should take a close look at this crossing point and come up with a solution.

**Yours faithfully,
Mike Bailey,
Ossulton Way, N2.**

It will happen again Dear Editor,

I read your article on crossing Market Place near Ossulton Way where sadly a woman was killed a few weeks ago. My wife had a very narrow escape at that junction and in my opinion the phasing of the traffic lights really needs changing because it's not 'if' but 'when' somebody else will be injured or killed.

**Yours faithfully,
Jackie Young,
Address supplied.**

Too big for the space Dear Editor,

I write concerning the monstrosity, aka the proposed development, opposite the tube station (*The Archer*, past issues). I W Land's letter in the May edition suggested a revision to the design to better complement the station style. However, while it is difficult to tell from pictures of the development, I am concerned that the new building will completely overshadow and block out the light from the large ticket hall window (designed precisely to bring the light in), leaving the hall dark and gloomy all the time. Also will 'Archie' still be visible, if he no longer has just sky behind him? On traffic, others have raised the safety issues and the High Road is congested at the best of times, so I can only see more tail backs and traffic grinding to a halt as cars try to get in and out of the small space. Far better to have a low rise building leaving us 'clear sky' and complementing the size of the existing

Park House. A much better use of the space would be a large medical centre to improve access to GP and other NHS services in this area.

**Yours faithfully,
D Wray,
Address supplied.**

Garden magic Dear Editor,

We are the community gardens, the 'Rose Gardens' in Northway Gardens, NW11, and we'd like to say thank you to Good Gym. Sixteen enthusiastic fit young people ran to us from East Finchley to help us.

There were 16 large bags of manure in my car. 16 people and 16 bags: problem solved! Six huge compost bins to be emptied? No problem. Pull them over, dig out the good compost and put them back.

Compressed compost? Not a problem with 16 people and a pickaxe. Lots of daffodils to be deadheaded? I blinked and it had all been done. Then they went off to do 20 minutes exercise before running back to the pub. Thanks again, www.goodgym.org.

**Yours faithfully,
Brian Ingram,
Address supplied.**

Protect the library building Dear Editor

On the temporary closure of East Finchley Library to implement Barnet Council's policy of downsizing libraries, I really fear for the integrity of the much loved listed building, hence my writing to you now.

I would like to shine the spotlight on the Council's, their contractors' (i.e. Capita) and English Heritage's commitment to respecting, maintaining and guarding the Grade II listed status of the distinguished and treasured Neo-Georgian building.

The listing singles out details right down to the original curved shelving that holds the books, as well as the more high profile features like the "elaborately scrolled metal balusters" of the staircase and the "saucer dome ceiling with 3 circular roof lights".

When asked about the measures being taken to safeguard and preserve these listed features, Capita has been evasive. The lack of clarity about responsibility between Capita and Barnet Council may well suit both parties. Your publishing this letter will help protect a very special edifice which is the pride of the local community and the gem of East Finchley along-

side the Art Deco Phoenix Cinema. In the meantime outside the shut building is a poignant reminder from the children next door at Martin Primary School. Above a moving display of drawings and heart-felt writing by the pupils is affixed their message: We Need Our Library.

**Yours faithfully,
Adam Gee,
Co-founder, East Finchley
Library Users' Group.**

Meters are a turn-off Dear Editor,

Your Church Lane correspondent (*The Archer*, May 2017) raises an number of issues about energy meters. She rightly highlights the fact that these are not compulsory. One issue never mentioned is that meters could pave the way for suppliers to charge more during peak periods. Energy companies will know exactly the time of day you are using gas and electricity. It does not take much imagination to think that when you are making breakfast or during evening mealtimes you could be charged more for using energy. So beware. The best advice for controlling household energy use is the off switch!

**Yours faithfully,
David Tupman,
Leicester Road, N2.**

University going strong Dear Editor,

Regarding the item in last month's *Archer* about the new University of the Third Age (U3A) in Hampstead Garden Suburb, readers might like to know that there is another thriving U3A group covering the East Finchley area.

The North London U3A has over 100 interest groups ranging from 'Armchair Critic' to yoga and including long and short walks, days out and theatre visits. There are also monthly member meetings, with a guest speaker, held at St Paul's Church in Long Lane, N3.

North London U3A is a well-established group with over 750 members and, as its name suggests, it covers an area from Archway in the south to North Finchley and beyond, although most activities are centred around Highgate and Finchley. We celebrated our 21st birthday in 2015.

If you are interested in joining us, please have a look at our website www.nlu3a.org.uk for more information. If you have any queries regarding membership, you are welcome to telephone Helene Davidian on 020 8444 3669.

**Yours faithfully,
Jane Marsh
Bedford Road, N2.**



Nigel Prickett with actors David Bamber, right, (as John Prickett) and Edward Hayes-Neary (as the Earl of Mansfield). Photo Paulina Sobczak

An amazing 250 years in business

High Road estate agent Prickett & Ellis celebrated its 250th anniversary on 27 April with a champagne reception and exhibition at Kenwood House. This was a particularly apt venue since in 1767 the owner-resident of Kenwood, the 1st Earl of Mansfield and Lord Chief Justice, was an original client of the firm's founder John Prickett.

Music was provided by string quartet Blue Topaz and an interesting scenario was performed by local actor David Bamber as the Earl, with Edward Hayes-Neary as John Prickett, revealing how he had predicted future developments.

The family business, which spans nine generations of

just two families, displayed a range of maps, photos and particulars that it had collected, painting a unique picture of how North London and its residential property market had developed since the business began trading. Today Prickett & Ellis runs six offices across north London.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Label your keys before it's too late

By Gill Steiner

One Sunday evening while out walking I spotted a bunch of keys in the road. Clearly someone was going to need those keys because they appeared to be for a car or motorbike. I was troubled about picking them up because I would have to find the owner. It might be better to leave them by the side of the road but they would not be safe or visible there.

At home I saw that on this big set of keys was a rubber label with the dealer's name and phone number so I left a recorded message about my find. Knowing it was unlikely that the keys' owner would telephone the dealer I resigned myself to contacting the police and taking them to a police station.

No easy access

I tried several times that Sunday night to ring 101, the police non-emergency number, and waited and waited and gave up. I looked at police websites about lost items. They're not easy to navigate but the basic message seems to be return things like that to a police station.

If only there was a website where you can give a postcode/locality, state what you've found and give a mobile number. Then someone who has lost a serious thing could search it by date and locality.

Anyway, on Monday I took the keys to Hornsey Police Station, my nearest one, three miles away. It was shut.

Happy ending

Then, on Monday evening I reunited the keys with their owner because he had rung the dealer who put us in touch with each other. What a joy that was.

The owner was a Deliveroo motor bike driver and you can imagine how grateful he was to get the keys back so he could do his job. He and I have learnt the lesson. He needs deeper, safer pockets. I need to label my own keys with a contact number. I am passing on this tip!

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