



Ziz Chater with her Martin School team Photo Mike Coles

Schools honoured for helping everyone to learn

By David Melsome

Two East Finchley schools have been recognised by the Mayor of London for their exceptional achievements in helping pupils at all levels of learning.

Staff at Bishop Douglass Secondary School, in Hamilton Road, and at Martin Primary School, in Plane Tree Walk, were honoured for their commitment to reducing educational inequality and for attaining exceptional results for children of all abilities academically.

Only around six per cent of London schools are eligible to be members of the Schools for Success programme, which seeks to spread the best ideas to schools across the capital.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq

Khan, said: "These schools' commitment to being supportive and inclusive sets a great example. Covid-19 has presented unforeseen challenges across our city but they have done a fantastic job in maintaining excellence during a very difficult time.

"We created Schools for Success to recognise the positive impact that teachers, headteachers, teaching assistants, support staff and governors are making every day to support students and reduce inequalities."



Bishop Douglass staff and students with the Mayor's award

How to get rid of your glossophobia

By Ellie Franklin

Long-time East Finchley resident Nick Gold has written a book revealing the secrets of speaking confidently in public. Nick is the managing director of international speaker bureau Speakers Corner, originally a small family business.

His book *Speaking with Confidence* was published in November after a four-month writing period. He said he wanted it to "give people the tools and techniques to feel comfortable to get up and deliver a speech, in whatever setting."

Many people suffer from glossophobia, the fear of public speaking, but Nick's key message is that anyone can do it. "Every day you have conversations with friends, family, colleagues, and you tell stories," he says. "Those stories are effectively a speech. One thing which is absolutely critical is that the only people who are

more scared than you about you failing onstage are the audience. They're desperate for you to succeed and are on your side."

Energy-sapping

The book was close to being finished about three weeks into the first lockdown when Nick quickly noticed the shift into the virtual world of Zoom and so added another chapter about speaking online.

"You spend 10 minutes on a Zoom call with anyone and the energy in those 10 minutes is like you've had a four-hour meeting in person," he notes.

Nick says his book focuses less on the structure and for-

Catalytic converter thefts

Dear Editor,

There has been a spate of thefts of catalytic converters from cars, particularly Honda Jazz and Toyota Yaris models, along Leopold Road in East Finchley. I believe four were taken or attempted to be taken in early December.

The miscreants were in a silver car, something like a Vauxhall, with the number plate obscured, and are three men (captured on a neighbour's camera). They were in action around 9 or 9.30pm and took about two minutes apparently. The police have been informed, but this hasn't stopped the thefts.

I can only advise everyone to be alert, as this is so obviously an organised crime and I suspect that we are not the only road to suffer. It is just that there is a Leopold Road What's App, so news of anything like this spreads almost immediately.

Linda Dolata,
Leopold Road, N2.

Congestion cutters

Dear Editor,

I would like to voice my support for the cycle lanes along East Finchley High Road and respond to some of the objections voiced in *The Archer* (November 2020).

I have cycled regularly in London for the last eight years, and consider myself a confident cyclist. But our roads can often be intimidating, particularly for new or returning cyclists. Safe, segregated space helps to encourage more active travel.

Your article "Huge frustration at 'rushed' cycle lanes on High Road" reports concerns from shopkeepers that they may lose customers during an already difficult period. Whilst these concerns are understandable, in fact, studies have shown that businesses overestimate how many customers arrive by car, and that cycling schemes actually increase footfall and revenue.

As to congestion, encouraging more active travel through the provision of good infrastructure actually stands to reduce motor vehicle congestion and free up road

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space for those who need to use it. Whilst I recognise there may be localised effects from removing a traffic lane (e.g. the short distance between East Finchley tube station and Fortis Green), the key factor in road congestion is the volume of motor vehicles on the road, and the simple fact is that we are collectively driving many more miles than we did ten years ago.

Increasing road space for motor vehicles has been shown not to reduce congestion, but to induce demand, encouraging more motor vehicle use in the long term. "Build it and they will come" is as axiomatic for motor vehicle infrastructure as it is for cycle infrastructure. Nobody should be forced to use cycle infrastructure, but its provision will make cycling more attractive and feasible to more people, increasing participation and reducing congestion in the longer term.

Chris Richards,
Address supplied.

What a load of bollards

Dear Editor,

I'd like to congratulate the geniuses on Barnet Council who dreamed up the idea of bollards between the main carriageway and the newly allocated cycle lanes between East Finchley and Tally Ho.

Thank you so much for endangering the lives of all Barnet residents who may unfortunately need an ambulance to take them along this route to Barnet General Hospital.

I presume this idiocy was paid for by our council taxes, and no doubt when they have to be removed there will be another unnecessary expense for the tax payer.

Michele Goldstein,
Edmunds Walk, N2.

Polite objection to cycle lanes

Dear Editor,

I want to be able to express views in a spirit of cooperation and free discussion. The only real current enemy is coronavirus, but the other insidious enemy is hatred.

There are too many people expressing views in a spirit of enmity. They don't want to co-operate but to sneer, threaten, shout and control. There are many important local and national issues, and these require proper reasoned consideration, not hostile confrontation. We should not need to fear putting our names to opinions on controversial subjects, and disagreement should still be treated with respect. A case in point, which is not the purpose of this letter but provoked me to write it, is the placing of cycle lanes and extra parking restrictions

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in East Finchley High Road. In my view (shared by everyone I have spoken to) this is a ridiculous and ill-thought out scheme, causing the congestion we are meant to avoid, damage to local businesses and extreme inconvenience to shoppers and residents generally.

In these times of 'green' campaigns, vehicles have to idle, using more fuel, creating more exhaust pollution and fraying tempers, which leads to accidents. Moreover there are few cyclists to be seen in the extra cycle lanes. I hope the arrangements will be reversed when their consequences are seen. There may be those who disagree, but if so I hope they can disagree in a civil manner and not sink to abuse.

Valerie Jablon,
Gurney Drive, N2.

Lost parking spaces

Dear Editor,

Double yellow lines have appeared on the High Road opposite Kitchener Road where there was once an indented bay, where people have parked for years, causing no problems or disruption to traffic flows.

What a pity for those who often use that parking space to pick up things from local shops on their way back from longer journeys. If the Council was trying to kill off use of local shops, it could not have found a better way to do it. But why do this?

I asked Barnet Council for the reason. It will add to the death of the High Road, already badly impacted by the massive traffic scheme at East Finchley station up to the junction of the North Circular Road, now reduced to one lane and causing traffic hold-ups daily.

As the Council has not replied, I have presented it with a Freedom of Information request, only to be told that, due to coronavirus, the normal month it has to reply has been extended. Other comments I have seen in the local NextDoor group are that it will also add pressure to parking in the county roads, which will then lead to calls for the controlled parking zone to run for longer hours, leading to the CPZ being rolled out to further roads, which means more parking charges for more people.

Barry H White
Fordington Road, N6.

Holy Trinity Parish Church

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Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday, at 9.00 am - Online

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matting of a speech and more about how to deliver stories and engage with your audience. *Speaking with Confidence* is published in Penguin's Business Experts series.