



Letters

Where's the evidence?

Dear Editor,

I have been looking for any evidence that the proposed new controlled parking zone extending down more or less to the North Circular Road is needed. I can find none.

The sort of evidence that would justify it would come from people living within the area of the zone who find difficulty parking because of vehicles that come into the zone and park for a few hours, whether because they hop on a bus to the tube station or whatever.

If I am right in thinking that there is no such evidence, then there is absolutely no valid reason for this conduct by the council. It becomes simply an unjustified, and indeed an unlawful, decision made by the council in order to raise revenue. This is what comes if you vote for a council of this stripe!

Additional to the problems for Martin School already highlighted in these columns, Creighton Avenue offers us the northern entrance of Fortismere School as well as Eden Primary where visitors to the schools, as well as staff, are going to be severely affected.

The council should also be challenged to show any evidence of the need to prevent visitors to the area from parking between the weirdly extended hours of 11am to 3pm. However, I do not hold out any hope of a sensible response from the council to any of these questions.

**Charles Lewis,
Cherry Tree Road, N2.**

Happy to pay

Dear Editor,

Parking often generates heat and the suggestion to pay for parking in East Finchley is no exception. Not everyone is opposed to improving parking controls. I support restrictions and paying for parking and would go further than the council is suggesting.

I would like to see 24-hour restrictions, limited to one car per household. We have to reduce the use of the car if we are to survive as a species and that does mean inconveniencing some people sometimes. And, yes, I do have a car although I try to use it as little as possible and I live in the proposed CPZ.

**Frances Crook,
Church Lane, N2.**

Final page

Dear Editor,

The closure of Black Gull Books in the High Road (*The Archer*, February 2024) is disastrous. Such a loss. Heart breaking. It was unique and irreplaceable, a very special place run by the most wonderful people.

A chat and a laugh with the owners used to set me up for the whole day, if not the week. Black Gull gave me many, many random blasts of joy in these bleak and bitter times. A magical haven, now gone forever.

I may not be responsible for my actions if it is replaced by a coffee shop.

**Janet Maitland,
Address supplied.**

Bad signals

Dear Editor,

Has anyone else noticed how many drivers fail to indicate these days? 'Mirror, signal, manoeuvre' was always the mantra when I learned to drive but now for too many people using their orange lights seems to have become optional.

I'm a driver and a cyclist and I see it happening all the time. Or not happening. Drivers do sudden U-turns, left-turns and right turns as if there is no one else on the road but them. The proper use of indicators is common courtesy to other road users but also an essential way to prevent accidents.

I don't say it's a particular East Finchley problem but it does happen round here and it certainly seems to get worse the further you go into town.

In my view, anyone caught not indicating should be transported back to the very early days of motoring and be forced to have someone walk in front of their vehicle waving a red flag as a permanent hazard warning.

**Mike Haworth,
Long Lane, N2.**

Send your correspondence to: news@the-archer.co.uk

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.



View point: Olivier Jaegers out walking with dad Jean-Paul on Parliament Hill

Olivier takes a hike for children's hospital

By Lynn Winton

When nine-year-old Olivier Jaegers was finally referred to Great Ormond Street Hospital, he had already experienced years of debilitating migraines. Frequent attacks are very rare in children and, as young as he is, he wanted to do something in return for the great care he was receiving.

"They do such a fantastic job for so many children," said Olivier, "that I wanted to help other children who are ill."

The Martin School Year 4 pupil, who lives with his family in Sylvester Road, N2, decided to set himself the challenge of hiking 25k around north London, taking his dad Jean-Paul for company.

"We are all so proud of him," said his mother Ellen Jaegers-Thomma. "GOSH have helped him so much, reducing his attacks, and he was able to raise £400 for them."

Disco for the young at heart

To mark Action Against Ageism Day later this month, Age UK Barnet is holding a disco for over 55s, a chance to let go and release your inner Olivia Newton John or John Travolta.

"Just because we get older, we don't stop enjoying what we loved doing when we were younger, says Age UK Barnet's age-friendly coordinator Pippa. "And since there aren't many opportunities for older people to dust off their dancing shoes, we thought we'd invite people along for a boogie or a toe tap if they want to sit back and listen."

A dance instructor will be teaching everyone a few line-dancing moves too. The disco takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2 8LT, from 6pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday 20 March. It's free admission and there'll be a cash bar.

For more information and to register your place, contact Pippa on agefriendly@ageuk-barnet.org.uk or call her on 07379 331807.

Auditions for Robin Hood

Garden Suburb Theatre are holding auditions for their summer production of Robin Hood in the Wood, taking place in Little Wood outdoor theatre in June. With parts available for anyone of any age, adults and children alike are encouraged to come and take part.

The auditions take place at Hampstead Garden Suburb Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11 7AG, on Sunday 24 March at 7.30pm. You

do not need to prepare any specific pieces before the audition, and all details can be found at www.garden-suburbtheatre.org.uk.

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.



Room on the bus for all

By Maxine Klein

Imagine having to decide: Do I visit my family or buy something for lunch? How do I get to my doctor's appointment and how do I get my children to school? These are the questions that asylum seekers are having to ask themselves because the minimum allowance that they receive does not cover the cost of bus fares.

Citizens UK in Barnet asked asylum seekers who are living in hotels what they needed in order to make their lives more tolerable, and the cost of transport was rated as one of their main problems. In order to make a large impact FRS and Finchley Progressive Synagogues joined up with other organisations who are working with asylum seekers to plan a campaign.

I joined the group of asylum seekers who are staying in a north London hotel and together we travelled to City Hall (a one and a half hour journey) to petition the Deputy Mayor for Transport Seb Dance and hand him a petition. We didn't have an official meeting booked but sent in a request for him to come out and meet us.

So on a cold and windy morning he came out of a meeting in the City Hall to listen to us. He was greeted by a group of more than 100 asylum seekers and stewards holding up placards with buses painted on them and the logo 'Room on the Bus', and singing a song the strapline being 'Room on the bus for all of us'. "He was just wearing a jacket in the freezing cold but was nonetheless smiling and amenable. He posed for photos and promised that TFL would put in a request for free London transport for asylum seekers.

It took me a long time to get home again and even longer to warm up but, if our campaign succeeds, I think that it was well worth it.

All Saints' East Finchley

Living the Catholic Faith in the Church of England



All Saints' Church, Durham Road,
East Finchley
Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:
allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk