



Message of support: Jennifer Pearl

Complex needs should be no barrier to a fulfilling life

By Lynn Winton

Jennifer Pearl absolutely loathes bin days, abandoned Lime bikes and the people who steal blue disability badges. She hugely appreciates pit stops like Caffè Nero in the High Road with its wide doors, the Phoenix Cinema with its full-access premises, and every piece of technological kit that can help to keep her daily life as autonomous as possible.

If you haven't worked it out already, Jennifer is fully reliant on wheelchair access to get on with her purposeful life, along with daily visits from dedicated carers who understand her complex needs.

Add to that a futuristic car that she can drive with her wheelchair as the driver's seat, and all this combined with a passion to use her lived experience to inform and help others.

Jennifer, now 61, was 47 and already living in East Finchley with husband Alex and children aged 14 and 17 when she spent six months in hospital after an inoperable neck lipoma was discovered.

"The next three to four years are a blur," she explained. "I can't even remember how many times or in what order I was in and out of hospital, how often I deteriorated, then soon

lost my mobility, at one point contracted septicaemia, and always had and still have a bag packed ready to be readmitted. In one particularly awful year I had more than 100 hospital appointments."

Complex web

It is estimated that 25% of people in the UK will become disabled and have to navigate a complex web of service providers. Jennifer is keen to promote the services of Inclusion Barnet, where she has just completed a six-year tenure as co-chair of the Trustees. If you live, work or study in Barnet, this would be the first port of call for practical guidance in all matters of disability and they can be reached via their advice line Touchpoint.

Jennifer is an "expert by experience" who advises, speaks, conducts research and

lobbies for change to a vast list of organisations, including the Care Quality Commission. It was serendipity that her career before her illness was already as an advocate for disabled people.

"My son says no one else in our family has got as many jobs as me. Not surprisingly, the more I do, the more experience I get, the more noise I make, the more I'm in demand."

Find out more at www.inclusionbarnet.org.uk and Touchpoint can be contacted on 020 3475 1314.

From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago: July 2015

Esso announced the closure of its garage at the junction of the High Road with Church Lane, opposite Martin School's field. Rumours had circulated that Tesco were planning to open a supermarket on the site but this was denied by the company. Ten years on, after various development plans have failed to materialise, the site remains derelict.

15 years ago: July 2010

After lying empty for eight years since the block was built, the ground floor of Stag Court in the High Road between Leslie and Leopold Roads was remarketed by estate agents Martyn Gerrard. Four planning applications to open a supermarket on the site had previously been turned down. The site had planning permission for use as office space and, later in the year, it was occupied by local business Hallett Retail.

25 years ago: July 2000

The controversial traffic scheme to ban vehicles turning right into or out of Baronsmere Road into the High Road was finally implemented, despite local opposition. Traffic islands were built in the middle of the High Road and at the entrance to Baronsmere Road, but were designed to allow cyclists full access to the junction.

Welcome wildlife into your world

Shoppers and passers-by were able to learn about the best ways to create habitats that are friendly to insects at a special event in the High Road, N2.

The Finchley Pollinator Project thanked East Finchley Town Team for enabling their workshop held outside Iceland on Saturday 7 June.

The group said: "We felt the event went really well and was

very busy and well attended. We enjoyed interacting with the public and showing them the immense potential their private spaces such as balconies, driveways and gardens hold for wildlife."



Bee kind: Visitors learn about insect life at the pollinators event. Photo Mike Coles

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