



## Letters

### Signs of trouble Dear Editor,

Walking around recently I have seen road signs like this several times.



But what exactly does it mean? My fairly logical mind says that the road ahead of me is closed and that there is a diversion to the right. That seems to make sense so I'll head right . . .

Except that what it actually is trying to say is that the road to the right is closed and I should keep going ahead.

And if I take a diversion then I might encounter this sign:



Which clearly means that if I have been diverted then I should drive on through Iceland . . .

Don't believe everything you see in this day and age.

**Bob Janes**  
Address supplied

*Editor's note: And thanks to reader Jon Stratton who sent us this photo of tangled signs at the end of Leicester Road. Someone had clearly twisted them round, making it impossible for road users coming off the High Road to read either.*



### Keen drummer Dear Editor,

I would like to ask all *The Archer* readers if they are in a band or know of anyone who is in a band that needs a drummer.

I am based in East Finchley and love playing all styles of music, preferably a mix of 50s Rock and Roll and Rockabilly, 60s Pop, 70s Glam and Punk, to more current material.

Along with focusing on the

drums, I also play harmonica and dulcimer. I can also provide good backing vocals and songwriting.

If your band is interested in doing original material, I have many original songs that I have written for previous bands I have been in. The band names were Husk, Swill Love Gods and Sound of the Suburb.

Please note that I am always available, since I am retired and have plenty of free time. I am really looking forward to hearing from anyone who needs a drummer. Many thanks and keep on rocking.

**Chris Berlingieri**  
Address supplied

*Editor's note: Contact Chris via our email address [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk)*

### Volunteers come forward Dear Editor,

Thanks to Long Lane Pasture featuring in the 'Be Part of It' column in the wonderful *Archer*, three new volunteers arrived at the pasture to help out alongside the team we already have. The new arrivals will be a great help in our work maintaining the nature reserve and others are always welcome to join us from 10am to 12pm every Saturday morning.

**Maureen Delandro**  
Address supplied

*Editor's note: Find our Be Part of It column on page 2 every month. Community organisations and charities can send appeals for volunteers (maximum 80 words) to [news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto:news@the-archer.co.uk). Find out more about Long Lane Pasture at [longlanepasture.org](http://longlanepasture.org)*

### Send your letters to:

[news@the-archer.co.uk](mailto: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.

### SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

### How to report a crime

- Call **999** in an emergency when there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress
- Call **101** for non-emergencies, if your property has been stolen or damaged, you wish to report drug dealing or a minor traffic accident, and for general police enquiries

- Report crime to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by email: [eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:eastfinchley.snt@met.police.uk) [gardensuburb.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:gardensuburb.snt@met.police.uk) or [fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk)

Find full details for the local SNTs at [www.iloven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing](http://www.iloven2.co.uk/local-government-and-policing)

- Stay anonymous and report information to Crimestoppers on **0800 555111**

# Beat boredom with this classic family card game

*Archer readers Isabella, 13, and Rafael, nine, have a favourite card game to share that's great to play with a friend or a group of up to five people. Egyptian Ratscrew is a modern version of the game some might already know as Beat Jack Out of Doors or Beggar My Neighbour.*

**Isabella and Rafael say:** "Whilst on our holiday visiting family in America, our cousins and I were looking for a game to play which would entertain all of us as we are all different ages. We tried Monopoly but the youngest obviously found it tedious so my elder cousin suggested playing E.R.S which, after getting the hang of it, we found it to be fun for all of us. Even the adults wanted to play."

The aim is to get the whole deck. Be speedy and attentive. Character flipping: Ace - 4, King - 3, Queen - 2, Jack - 1

### Rules

Distribute a pack of playing cards faced downwards amongst the players.

Players take turns flipping their top card face up, creating a central pile.

If a player flips a character card (Jack, Queen, King or Ace) the next player must flip a certain amount of cards, as above. If no character cards



Don't miss a trick: Isabel and Rafael's family in the thick of a game of ERS

turn up, the first player gets to keep the pile

However, if the second player does flip a character card, the next player must then follow the same character flipping rules, and so on round the circle. Once no character card shows up, the preceding player gets to keep the pile.

Players should pay attention at all times. If they see any player flip two cards of the same value then they can slap the deck

and get to keep the pile.

The game repeats until someone acquires a full deck.

And no cheating, because if you slap the pile when you shouldn't have, you must place one card at the bottom of the pile as a penalty. Plus you always have to keep your hand on your lap, otherwise it is called hovering. If you hover, you have to put one of your cards at the bottom of the pile.

Have fun!

## Open morning for U3A

North London U3A is again running its annual open morning to showcase its regular year-round activities. Member Mike Lewin says: "The open morning is our opportunity to promote what we have to offer to retired and semi-retired members of the public from Finchley, Highgate and Muswell Hill, or further afield."

"Our members have been telling us that as well as interest group activities, which range from subjects like literature and languages to more energetic activities, such as yoga and walks, they also enjoy purely social events."

The open morning will take place on Monday 15 September from 10am to 11.30 am at St Margaret's Church, Victoria Avenue, Finchley, London N3. You can find out more information on the NLU3A website: [www.nlu3a.org.uk](http://www.nlu3a.org.uk)

## Double discus delight for schoolgirl Elkie



Discus champion: Elkie Baker

Fortismere School student and East Finchley resident Elkie Baker won both the English Schools Championships and the National Under-17 Women's Discus titles this summer at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.

Elkie, 16, is a member of London Heathside Athletics Club, based in Finsbury Park, and also represented English Schools in the SIAB International meeting against Ireland, Wales and Scotland.