



Letters

Partridge settles in

Dear Editor

A partridge has taken up residence in a garden in Fordington Road much to everyone's surprise. He doesn't live there permanently but in the summer and on milder nights he will sleep on a balcony at the back of the house and curl up like a cat against the door or window.

On colder nights or in the winter Mr Partridge disappears from the garden so we presume he has somewhere warmer and safe to rest. Every morning he comes back again for breakfast which is provided daily. We believe he is a red-legged partridge and they usually have a partner for life. However, this partridge is always alone amongst the pigeons.

Prem Stassopoulos,
Address supplied



Garden guest: The Fordington Road partridge

Access all areas

Dear Editor

Mischa Laurén makes an important point about wheelchair access to shops and cafés in the High Road (Letters, The Archer, January 2025). But credit where

it's due to the team at Casa Pepe who go out of their way to welcome wheelchair users, others with support needs and their carers. The result is a gloriously inclusive environment where everyone can feel at

home. The food's great, too. I reckon they should get a grant from the council for community cohesion.

David Brindle,
Durham Road, N2

Doctors dilemma

Dear Editor

It's good to know that some GP practices are allowing patients to bypass the government edict to communicate with your doctor digitally or not at all (Letters, The Archer, November 2025).

It's extraordinary that older people, those who need NHS services the most, are the least likely to own a smartphone. Even owning an up-to-date computer and scanner isn't good enough as only a smartphone will get you through the fiendishly complicated process of proving who you are to even get access to the system.

In the past, it used to be really simple. If you weren't well, you'd just turn up at the surgery, take a seat in the waiting room and wait your turn.

Rani Dickson
Address Supplied

Bridge Banksy?

Dear Editor

How about a reproduction of the Archer statue from the station in 2D in different colours on the bridge? Or you could run a competition in the paper requesting designs with a strong

Brighten up the bridge

Dear Editor

I read the article by Peter Hale in the December edition of The Archer regarding the bridge in East Finchley. I'm glad this has been raised as the bridge is in desperate need of a facelift. If Camden can have a branded bridge, why can't East Finchley?

A similar idea would give a boost to the decor of the bridge

as it is flaky and gloomy and some bright colours would liven it up. Plenty of local artists in the area would gladly offer to provide ideas and help in the renovation. Anyway, just wanted to throw my support behind the idea.

Simon Wood,
Address Supplied



Welcome sign: How East Finchley's bridge could look.
Image Mike Coles

hint that maybe Banksy would pre-empt the whole process.

Roland Wilding,
Retired Trade Mark and Design Attorney

Short and sweet

Dear Editor

The Northern line bridge branding is a brilliant idea for East Finchley.

Anthony Rabin,
Address supplied

Send your letters 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.

Ask Joy: Am I being too vanilla in the bedroom?

Joy is a trained counsellor and she can help you tackle issues that matter to you. No problem is too big or too small to be shared. Every email will be answered by Joy, and we will anonymise those that go into print, so confidentiality is assured.

Joy trained as a counsellor in the 1990s and worked in education for 20 years with young people and parents. She has many years' experience of listening and problem-solving. It's always good to talk, so don't hesitate to reach out.



Email Joy at askjoyatthearcher@gmail.com.

Dear Joy,

I'm 32 and have been with my boyfriend for three years. We moved in together just over a year ago. We get on great and have fun together, and I thought we had a great sex life, but when he came home from a night out recently he said that he was bored with things in bed and wants us to spice things up.

His idea is to have a threesome and he's putting me under a lot of pressure to say yes. The thought of watching him having sex with someone else freaks me out and I don't want to have sex with another man or woman.

I'm so not into this but I'm worried that if I do say no he'll find someone a little less vanilla to act out his fantasies with. He says I'm being narrow minded. Is he right? DD

Dear DD,

In answer to your question, no he's not right. It's not that I think having a threesome is wrong, but pushing you to do something you're not comfortable with definitely is.

Experimentation should always be consensual and all concerned need to be happy with the direction of travel before the journey begins.

And there are lots of ways to spice things up without introducing a third person into the mix. Perhaps you can do a little research and make some suggestions that you would be happy to try. This may also help you understand your own sexual limits, which really is key.

Being able to talk about this honestly with him might be difficult, but it is so important if you want to have a satisfying sexual

relationship with him. If the pressure for a threesome continues though, maybe it's time to have a rethink. No one should be made to feel like they're too vanilla because they're not into doing something that makes them uncomfortable.

There are few rules when it comes to consensual adult sex but being accepting of each other's limits is fundamental to a safe, happy and satisfying sex life and, ultimately, a fulfilling relationship. You deserve nothing less.

Useful resources:

• www.brook.org.uk: Type in 'consent and sex' which brings up a page of useful advice for a long-term relationship

• www.psychologytoday.com/gb - Type in the words 'spice up sex'