



Letters



Clutter? Signs in Edmunds Walk. Photos Malcolm Goldstein

Signs clutter

Dear Editor

Please look carefully at these two photos. After several days of work and disturbance these signs indicating speed limits for traffic in Deansway and Edmunds Walk, N2, suddenly appeared.

Note that for Edmunds Walk, a cul-de-sac ending in a footpath to East Finchley station, the speed limit is higher than that for Deansway and indeed other local roads. Aside from being absurd and nonsensical the signs are a needless addition to street clutter.

Perhaps a more useful sign could have been to inform pedestrians not to walk in the middle of Edmunds Walk instead of on the pavement both for their own safety and for that of motorists. May we know who authorised the erection of these signs which many of us in Edmunds Walk believe should be removed completely?

Malcolm Goldstein,
Edmunds Walk, N2

Joyful noise

Dear Editor

Having been brought up in a traditional Jewish household, carols were not part of my culture. As they were 'forbidden fruit', they were all the more appealing.

I love carols and all the corny Christmas songs, and so when I got a message on our street WhatsApp in December that Martin School was holding a carol concert outside Budgens, I headed up there to listen to and join in all the Christmas favourites.

I was delighted to see a group of enthusiastic children with their song sheets backed

up by their teachers, all facing a group of proud, beaming parents with various siblings wandering around. It was a joyous occasion.

The children sang a range of carols and Christmas songs with great enthusiasm. In between songs, a bucket was passed round to collect money for the Finchley Foodbank. More than £100 was collected for this good cause. As the song goes: "It's the most wonderful time of the year."

Maxine Klein,
Address Supplied



Joyful: Carols in the High Road. Photo Maxine Klein

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.

Parking headache

Dear Editor

For Barnet residents needing to apply for or renew parking permits, be warned that this has been outsourced to a company called MiPermit. This is not an easy easy way to get your permit, as they make it almost impossible, and of course it has to be done online.

My computer skills are reasonable, my son's are better, but even with years of experience it took four attempts before the permit was granted, and after I had received the permit and receipt, I received another email today saying I needed to renew it. Neighbours have found similar problems.

The third application was rejected as the driving licence on the system was a previous one: why was this not spotted on the first two applications? I phoned their office at one stage and said I could not scan documents. The lady said she could not either, but all the applicants are expected to.

Believe it or not, MiPermit took payments for every attempt I made to apply. I found that there were four payments taken from my credit card instead of just the one for the successful application. My neighbour also had to retrieve multiple payments, which took some time.

Barnet Council should be aware of the inconvenience of the system, and residents should know that they might have to allow weeks of fruitless and frustrating time when they need their permits.

Valerie Jablon,
Address Supplied

Wheelchair access

Dear Editor

When will businesses start caring about patrons who use wheelchairs? It's a sad state of affairs when most cafés, pharmacies, dry cleaners and all charity shops in East Finchley are inaccessible to wheelchair users.

I would love to shop locally on the High Road but I cannot. I have spoken to many members of staff about decluttering their aisles. Lots of goodies, but I often avoid stores because they are far too narrow.

People complain about the big corporate companies taking over the High Road, but sadly, those are the only shops that have wheelchair access!

Mischa Laurén
Address Supplied

Ask Joy: Mum and Dad put me under pressure

Here at The Archer, we have introduced an advice column to give help and support. Joy is a trained counsellor and an East Finchley resident, and she can help you tackle issues that matter now.



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 askjoy@the-archer@gmail.com.

Dear Joy,

I've recently started in Year 12. I used to enjoy school, but my parents are constantly putting pressure on me to do well. I got As and A*s in my GCSEs and thought that they'd stop pushing so hard, but it's actually made things worse.

They chose my A level subjects and I agreed because I was tired of arguing about everything. Now I'm thinking about where to go to uni and they're pushing again.

I'm under pressure at school and at home. It's just too much. I want to do what I want to do, but I can't talk to my parents without getting into a row. How can I get them to see that it's just so unfair that it's my life, but I don't get to choose? XY

Dear XY,

Starting in Year 12 is stressful. There are lots of change and you're making the leap from GCSEs to A Levels too, so adding parental pressure into the mix isn't helpful. I can understand that they want you to do well – most parents do – but it does feel unfair for them to make decisions about your future without considering what you want. You said that you allowed your parents to choose your A Levels to keep the peace, but you're older now and if you are going to go to university, it feels important that you choose a subject you're passionate about. If you want your parents to take you seriously, a well-thought-out plan is essential. Do your research thoroughly and be prepared to answer their questions.

Explain what you want to do and why, as well as which unis you're interested in.

Having this conversation at the right time is also important.

Let them know that you'd like to have a chat about your future and fix a time that works for everyone. It may take more than one conversation to get your parents onside, so be prepared to keep talking. By showing them that you're serious about next steps, they will hopefully reflect on what you've said and get behind your decision.

Helpful resources:

<https://kidshealth.org/> - this is a great website for advice about lots of things. In the search bar, type the words Talking to Your Parents or Other Adults.



A mock-up of how our bridge could look. Image Mike Coles

Classy bridge

Dear Editor

I think the scheme used on the Photoshopped image in the paper (The Archer, December 2026) looks appropriate and very classy. If you do manage to get a meeting with Transport for London you may wish to ask them when we might expect some refurbishment of the station; there are some pretty dilapidated areas.

Ian Elliott,
Address Supplied