



## Letters

### Pavement no-go zone

Dear Editor,

On a busy morning in January, I saw this truck parked on the pavement to unload building materials and completely obstructing pedestrian access on the pavement in this part of the High Road, opposite the Tube station.

As a result, parents and children walking to the nearby Monkey Puzzle Nursery were forced to walk for several metres in the road while traffic was passing. I personally had to walk on the street with my two-year-old, which felt unsafe given the volume of passing cars.

When the issue was raised with the builders responsible, they appeared unconcerned and did not take any action. Pavements should be kept clear and safe for children and families. I am concerned about pedestrian safety at this location and whether incidents like this



Blocked: The delivery lorry on the pavement opposite the tube station

are being properly monitored or enforced. I learned afterwards that I should have called the council immediately and will do so next time. I understand that it may be difficult for them to load/unload at that location, but they certainly should not block the pavement during rush hour next to a nursery.

Name and Address supplied

### Stolperstein in London

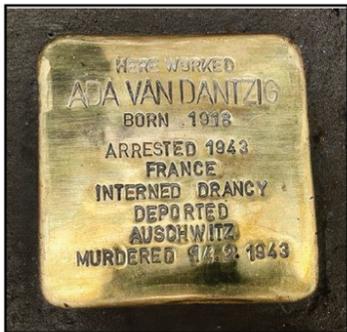
Dear Editor,

Your article about the Stolperstein ('Simple tributes to lives cut short', The Archer, January 2026) was a bizarre coincidence since I had just discovered the only one laid in the UK in Golden Square, Soho, where Ada von Dantzig worked.

According to the Wiener Holocaust Library, Ms van Dantzig, who was Dutch, came to London to learn the craft of painting conservation in the studio of the pre-eminent conservator Helmut Ruhemann.

When Ms van Dantzig learned her family in the Netherlands were at risk, she returned home to aid their escape. However, the escape plan failed and the whole family, apart from one brother, was deported to Auschwitz.

Ms van Dantzig and her parents were killed at the concentration camp on 14 February 1943, two weeks after her sister had been killed. Her brother was killed there two months later.



Golden square: The stolperstein in central London

Nicolas Fenton,  
Address Supplied

### Read the speed

Dear Editor,



Which is it? The confusing speed signs

This is in Vivian Way, N2, leading into Deansway. Is it 30 or 20 miles per hour? Same road but different speed.

Mandana Merali,  
Address Supplied

### Phone frustration

Dear Editor,

The inefficiency of big companies is very frustrating. The latest example is Openreach, who are in the process of converting our telephone landlines to digital.

I was sent an email with a date and time. The date was acceptable but the time was not, so I tried to let them know. A phone number was supplied which was not in operation. I then went online where the only two options given were to either confirm or cancel the appointment.

Emails do not reach them, so I went to their 'Contact' page where a different phone number was given costing a basic £6! This is monstrous for the telephone company to charge so much for their own customers to speak to them. I declined.

Privatisation of basic services is resulting in terrible service and unnecessary expense.

### Leak lag

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the recent article on the longstanding leak on Woodside Avenue outside the pumping station ('Water place for a leak to appear', The Archer, February 2026). I first reported this to Thames Water in early 2024. Their roads leak team did visit quite quickly but said they thought it was coming from the pumping station and would need to be handled by a different team.

I'm a governor at St James Primary School which is just to the east of the site so raised it repeatedly. No action was taken until I started a formal complaint in October last year. This seemed to prompt the pumping station team into doing something, which has led to what I hope is a permanent fix.

I've queried why it took almost two years to fix a leak which was plainly visible to anyone using the pavement, and so should have been visible to their pumping station team, who I think should have addressed it far earlier, or if it was very complicated, taken action within the pumping station grounds to divert the leaking water.

Thames Water's approach is that now they have fixed the leak there is no need to review the performance of their pumping station team and examine if other similar issues are present. They have closed my complaint.

I'm minded to take this forward to the Consumer Council for Water and would be happy to include any further information from your readers. All the best and keep up the good work!

John Jo Hammill,  
Address supplied

The people who do the work tend to be efficient and helpful, but all the owners want is to take our money.

Valerie Jablon,  
Gurney Drive, N2

### 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.

### Re:Griddable solution

SLOT, PINE, AMEN, MESS, SPAM, LIME, ONES, TENS.

Alternative solution: STOP, LINE, AMEN, MESS, SLAM, TIME, ONES, PENS

# Ask Joy: My boyfriend has a bathroom secret

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](mailto:askjoyatthearcher@gmail.com).

Dear Joy,

Thank you for your lovely and helpful column. Here is my problem I would love your advice on. My boyfriend won't let me see how he brushes his teeth. I am not sure why, as it seems like a small thing to me and he always sees me brushing my teeth. I'm starting to wonder if he's hiding something from me.

I've been patient, waiting until he was ready to share it with me. But nothing happens. I just don't understand why he wouldn't want to show and share this with me, when we are already sharing our bodies and minds. I have tried talking to him about it, but we haven't got closer to me seeing the toothbrushing act.

Am I overthinking this and should I just relax and wait? What would you advise? T

Dear T,

You have said that you already share your 'bodies and minds', so it's interesting that toothbrushing has taken on such significance. Not everyone wants to share their time in the bathroom and perhaps your partner feels this way. You may be happy with him seeing whatever you're doing, and that's fine. But he has made it clear he prefers bathroom time to be solitary.

Perhaps he wants to completely switch off and not interact with anyone at the end of a busy or demanding day. I can hear that for you, though, it has taken on a different meaning: your partner doesn't want to share everything with you and that feels uncomfortable.

You've asked me if you're overthinking this and if, after some reflection, this really is

about your desire to see him brushing his teeth, then my answer is yes. It may, though, be more about a perceived lack of intimacy within your relationship.

This doesn't come from mutual toothbrushing or even from having sex (it's possible to do both without being truly intimate with someone). Intimacy is more about sharing your emotional selves as well as your physical selves, about talking and being present, about allowing yourselves to be vulnerable. If you feel you have already achieved this level of intimacy in your relationship, maybe let the toothbrushing thing go and look for other ways to stay connected.

Useful resources:

• [www.psychologytoday.com/gb](http://www.psychologytoday.com/gb) and type in 'What's Your Intimacy IQ?'