

YOUR

Email letters@hamhigh.co.uk

Thanks for showing plight of milkmen

Janet Shapiro, Connaught Gardens, Hornsey, writes:

Thankyou to Ham & High (November 21, page 8) for alerting readers to the industry giant Milk & More and its high-handed treatment of our loyal local milkmen.

The company is going big with online purchasing but the local heroes that deliver, rain or shine, with door-step deliveries have built up a personal relationship with customers; they read notes, accept payment by cheque, take text messages – all those services so welcome to older people unwilling to engage with the internet.

Milk & More has made up new rules; these are forcing milkmen to use more distant suppliers. Granted, the company does supply milk in reusable glass bottles, but it is important to me that our local milkmen are not prevented from continuing to deliver their independent service.

Oh for a government elected today that would review milk marketing that currently gives unfair advantage to large companies! Of course, reforms would also make a considerable reduction in throwaway plastic packaging.

What do you think? Email letters@hamhigh.co.uk

Governors back Abacus appeal

Harriet Nowell-Smith, chairwoman of governors, writes:

I am writing to express my disappointment at the decision of the council to refuse to grant planning approval for Abacus Primary School to move into the former Hampstead police station, against the recommendation of Camden's officers.

I am confident the decision will be appealed. The school's governors, with Anthem Trust, will do all we can to support an appeal. More generally, we will continue to support the school, the headteacher and the staff, who are doing an incredible job in difficult circumstances. We are confident in the quality of our planning application and expect an appeal to succeed.

The councillors appeared to have made up their minds for reasons unconnected with planning. Despite watching the hearing in person and on the webcast, it is not clear to us what use the council would permit for this site or why it does not use its powers more to reduce traffic and air pollution, if those are the councillors' concerns.



The former Hampstead Police Station, in Rosslyn Hill.

Picture: HARRY TAYLOR

The councillors also referred obliquely to school place planning issues. They appear not to have appreciated the new data published on October 9 just a month before the planning committee meeting. It is available at opendata.camden.gov.uk/Children-Schools-Family/2019-Camden-Primary-and-Secondary-School-Places-Pl/wnfp-4sgm. Appendix B has information about primary school places. Table 2C

shows that in most of the last five years, it would not have been possible to find places for the 30 Abacus children in reception in North-West Camden schools. Abacus has been full in reception for many years, and so are other local schools. In 2019, it would only have been possible place Abacus children elsewhere if several attended a Catholic school, or schools over an hour's walk away. We understand the

council is concerned about falling birth rates, but the birth rate is rising in the Abacus catchment area, according to its own statistics.

It is not realistic to hope that the children at Abacus would simply move to another Camden school if Abacus did not exist. Nor is it likely that the reception class in Gospel Oak Primary School would have empty spaces if Abacus were located in the former police station,



Milkmen upheaval after years of serving local customers

By Ann Bronkhorst

Milkmen serving East Finchley, Highgate and Muswell Hill have been ousted from the depot they have used for many years with just two weeks' notice by its owners.

The independent deliverers had a supply agreement with Capital Dairies, renewable every two years and based on the long-established use of their north London depot and vehicles. These were bought two years ago by Milk & More, owned by the large German firm Müller.

This year, the milkmen's agreement was not renewed; instead they say they were told they would have to move to Capital Dairies' new site in Barking, Essex, less convenient for most of them and without electric vehicles. They claim Milk & More offered to buy their rounds for their own deliverers to take over.



Going independent: Milkman Mike Fuller

milkman." He points out the flexibility with which orders can be arranged and altered when customers know and trust their regular local milkman.

Tony Drew, who has delivered in Highgate for 40 years, spoke movingly about the social role of milkmen. He has been involved with rescues, helping stroke victims, calling police to burglaries and other situations when the protective presence of someone who knows the community has been vital. For him, "It's not the money aspect but the moral aspect. I will fight to the end."

Milk & More respond

Andrew Kendall, Deputy CEO of Milk & More told *The Archer*: "At no time were these independent milkmen told that they needed to sell their rounds to Milk & More and that if they did not they had to vacate the premises they operate from and lose their electric vehicles," but added: "If they were interested in selling to us then we would review the opportunity." The spokesman also emphasised that Milk & More's contract was "solely with Capital Dairies... [we] have no contracts with these independent milkmen." Milk & More and Capital Dairies, he said, had met in August



Story time: Children enjoying a picture book at the Finchley Community Toy Library

Double the fun at toy library

By Diana Cormack

The Green Man Centre in Strawberry Vale, N2, Community Toy Library every Tuesday morning in term time. 2020 openings will be extended to include Monday afternoons, giving children and their parents the chance to enjoy some of the variety of toys but without the cost of buying them.

There is a soft play area for babies and each session offers activities for toddlers, which includes story time, along with facilities for adults to share play with their youngsters. Two toys can be taken for two weeks at a time at a minimal cost. Books, of which there is an impressive collection, are not charged for.

Meeting a need

Sadly the toy library in Muswell Hill closed this summer as did East Finchley's own many years ago.

Finchley Community Toy Library founder Nina Gifford said: "It is so hard to get a library these days. You need a PIN code, a timetable and that nonsense. Most obsolete!" She told *The Archer* her future plans for a book scheme to encourage parents to bring pre-schoolers into the habit of book borrowing.

The toy library is open on all, though it is under the auspices of Barnet Lone Park Centre, which is able to

Stories of a church and

By Sue Windridge

After much hard work, All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, launched two fascinating publications at its open day in October.

All Saints' East Finchley

In Memoriam

Our Casualties of the First World War



Going independent: Milkman Mike Fuller

Angry and shell-shocked at their treatment, the milkmen refused the company's proposal. Staying united, they searched for another supplier and found Ongar Dairy in Epping, which supplies the well-regarded Cotteswold milk and can provide vehicles, albeit quite noisy ones, for now.

Online or traditional

The milkmen say the online-only ordering system run by Milk & More does not work for everyone. "Not all customers have the internet," said Mick Fuller, who delivers in East Finchley, "and many love the one-to-one contact with their

Archer: "At no time were these independent milkmen told that they needed to sell their rounds to Milk & More and that if they did not they had to vacate the premises they operate from and lose their electric vehicles," but added: "If they were interested in selling to us then we would review the opportunity." The spokesman also emphasised that Milk & More's contract was "solely with Capital Dairies... [we] have no contracts with these independent milkmen." Milk & More and Capital Dairies, he said, had met in August to discuss their agreement and "agreed to serve notice on the arrangement." Of this the milkmen say they knew nothing.

Watch this space

These long-serving milkmen have at least succeeded in protecting their rounds for now, so customers' deliveries are safe and these traditional, much-valued small businesses won't disappear... here, at least. In fact there's been a tsunami of support on social media. One typical comment is: "Let's all try to spread the word and help milk delivery services survive."

of which there is an impressive collection. are not charged for.

Meeting a need

Sadly the toy library in Muswell Hill closed this summer as did East Finchley's own many years ago.

Stories of a church and

By Sue Windridge

After much hard work, All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, launched two fascinating publications at its open day in October.

The first is a long-awaited history titled *The Story of All Saints', East Finchley* in a colourful and engaging format, written by David Sillito, who is the BBC's media and arts correspondent and a member of the congregation.

The second publication, *In Memoriam*, collects together articles on the casualties listed on the All Saints' war memorial, researched and written by congregation member Sally Atkinson and previously published over a period of four years in the parish magazine.

All Saints' East Finchley

In Memoriam

Our Casualties of the First World War

Tales to remember: The casualties

The men listed on the memorial are aged between 16 and 40. Most died on the Western Front but one died in East Africa and one in Mesopotamia. There are four sets of brothers.

Piano Lessons

Beginners

30 years teaching experience

G. Drewes

gkdrewe@gn

DO YOU FEEL VERY

Does your anxiety

Do you find it hard

There will be a good

possibly buried

HYPNOTHERAPY

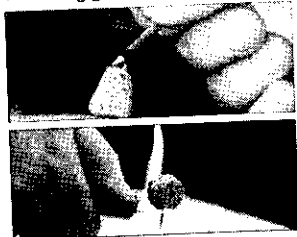
AND CLEAR H



kathryn@

JAPANESE Acupuncture & moxibustion

Promoting good health & wellbeing



Fiona Hurlock

www.fionahurlock.com
Utopia, N2 9EJ Ph 07795 203107



- Back Pain
- Neck Pain
- Whiplash Injury
- Sciatica
- Sports Injury
- Frozen Shoulder
- Arthritis
- Tennis Elbow
- Sprain or Strain
- Rehabilitation
- Neurological
- Stroke

Wendy Longworth & Associates physiotherapy practice offers a variety of treatments at the clinic, or off-site, in patients homes, nursing homes, private hospitals and other organisations.

www.eastfinchleyclinic.co.uk

020 8883 5888

2-3 Bedford Mews Bedford Road London N2 9DF