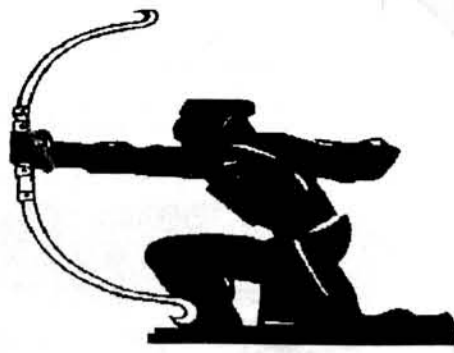


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September 1993 No. 8 **20p**

BARONSMERE ROAD GUN ATTACK!

Woman shot by motorist

By Cathy Young

A WOMAN walking in East Finchley recently was shot with an air-gun from a passing car. It followed only minutes after a similar shooting in Golders Green.

DC Ward at Golders Green police station appeals for help from the public on the two serious assaults.

They took place on Wednesday August 18 at 10.55 pm. and 11.05 pm. The victim of the first shooting, an 18-year old American woman, was hit by a pellet in the arm in Welgarth Road, NW11.

The other woman is aged 28 and a resident of East Finchley. She was shot in Baronsmere Road, N2, from a car identified as a Ford Capri.

For obvious reasons she does not wish to be named, but here is her story printed verbatim from her letter to The Archer:

“ I HAVE lived in the area for the past five years and have always enjoyed the friendly atmosphere here. Although I very seldom walk the streets late at night, on this occasion I was visiting a friend who only lives five minutes away from me. My journey was from East End Road, onto the High Road and into Baronsmere Road.

CRACKING SOUND

As I turned into Baronsmere Road I noticed a car turning very slowly into the road. I carried on walking quite briskly but the car was now parallel to me. I noticed a man in the car with what looked like some sort of gun pointing at me. The next thing I remember was hearing a cracking sound and something hitting my thigh, which caused me considerable pain. The car then drove away.

In a state of shock I did not manage to get his number

plate. My main concern was to get home as soon as possible, in case he came back. On arriving home I realised that the wound was from a pellet gun, which has left a nasty gash in my thigh and a lot of swelling.

Who in their right mind would want to drive around hitting innocent people for no apparent reason? I also learned from the police that another girl in the Golders Green area was hit on the same evening.

APPEAL FOR HELP

I am writing to you in the hope that you will mention this incident to your readers with a view to warning them to be extra-careful when walking the streets, especially late at night.

There is every possibility that this man may strike again, causing more serious injuries to his victims.

Let's just hope that this lunatic is caught as soon as possible, before he causes more harm.

”

Council aim for swift response to residents

BARNET residents are entitled to a swift and efficient response to all written enquiries - and the council is determined to see they get it.

As part of the authority's customer care drive, the council has set a target within which if an acknowledgment is not

sent immediately to any enquiry letter, a full response must be made in 15 days at the latest.

The aim is that at least 80% of all written enquiries should be answered in full within the 15-day period and that this performance should steadily improve.



Finchley Swimming Pool - presently left to decay. Photo by Graham Hobbs

Future of pool now depends on the public

Carol Andrewes writes:

THE future of Finchley Swimming Pool and the surrounding areas will be decided by the Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee on September 27 at the Town Hall, Hendon, at 7 pm. when a decision will be made whether to accept or reject revised development proposals put forward by THI (Leisure Parks) Ltd.

The company's original development plans were rejected in response to huge public opposition, primarily as a result of a campaign by the Finchley Swimming Pool Preservation Society, local residents and other interested groups.

PUBLIC SITE

The pool and surrounding areas, both of which form part of the Glebelands and Finchley Common, is very valuable land - a prize catch for any developer.

The freehold of this site belongs to us, the general public, and therefore it is for **us** to decide about future developments.

The Council should be there

to represent the wishes of the people.

This particular area of Finchley Common was purchased by Finchley Urban Council in 1925, the intention being for it 'to become public property for all time'. The Council has said that no new scheme will go ahead without consultation with all residents and interested groups.

NIGHTCLUB

In the new plans, the two new pools, both indoor and outdoor, are a fraction of the size of the original swimming pool. It would also mean the loss of public gardens and tennis courts to make way for a nightclub and extensive car parking facilities, which would create a visual impact on the area as well as an increase in the volume of traffic to the surrounding areas.

CHANCE FOR POOL?

The Finchley Swimming Pool Preservation Society, which has been fighting to save the pool from closure since 1991 and the land from being bulldozed, says that if

Continued on Page 2.

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