



LETTERS

Pest Control

Dear Sir,
Pigeons - they seem to be winning - first the rose beds now the seats - dirty pavements and danger from the trees. For a long time I urged the former cllr. Davies to use his influence to get these pests removed; to no avail. The present E. Finchley councillors do not seem to be either aware of or interested in our environment.

A short while ago, a BBC programme showed that pigeons are destructive, foul, dirty and disease-ridden pests. The East Finchley flock are outside a foodstore.

They should not be fed. They should be destroyed. The corner which, at the moment, is a disgusting, depressing mess, could then be cleared up and restored to a pleasant feature. Isn't that what we want?

May I make a comment on another feature in *The Archer* about sponsoring trees - "Trees for Life". When my husband died 10 years ago, the family paid for a tree to be planted in his memory in Cherry Tree Wood where it flourishes for everyone's enjoyment. Think about it!

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Joyce Pinnell
Elm Gardens N2

Editor's Note: Sponsoring trees in East Finchley? What a great idea. Let The Archer have your comments.

Bird call

Dear Sir,
The pigeons!! The arrangements at the moment are greatly to be preferred to the shabby 'garden' that the pigeons owned and ate - but the pigeons should be dealt with - they are impossible and steadily getting worse. They are greedy, heavy and all pervasive. I think to kill them is the only way, and it needs a thorough job - they ruin the gardens; there are

clouds of them in Cherry Tree Wood - they gobble-up what I put on my brick table and walk over the garden breaking the stems of plants and are a general nuisance and should not be fed.

Also the crows - they increase yearly and the variety of small birds is getting less and less in consequence. We had a wren, but not now, and a nut-hatch - not now - thrush - not now and so it goes on - the only birds not afraid are the sparrows!

All power to your elbow
Yours sincerely
Anon.

Thorn birds

Dear Sir,
I quite agree that Pigeon Corner is unsightly and would suggest that prickly bushes would stop pigeons roaming over the area, as well as making such a drab corner more attractive to look at (surely an important consideration if we're trying to attract even more tourists to the area).

I'm not a gardener but I know that the police recently advised homeowners to plant crime-detering (prickly) plants under windows and in front of drainpipes in order to put off would-be burglars. Perhaps your crime correspondent or your gardener could look into this.

If such plants can stop crime, then I'm sure they'll be out best weapon in the fight against the pigeons!

Best regards
Cathy Turnip
Park Gate N2

Danger - Pigeon Corner

Dear Sir,
The first thing the authorities must do is to put their notices where they can be seen and not out of sight high up on a pole. Then ensure it is obeyed! At the moment, the corner is a health hazard with food shops nearby and a danger

to the public with birds flying in their faces and gravel with droppings under foot to make them slip.

Incidentally, the pigeons enjoy eating the grit the council put down.

C.O. Kennedy
The Causeway, N2

Bank statement

Dear Sir,
I much enjoy your paper *The Archer* and it gets better each month and I always read it through and pass it on to relations in Harringay!

I think the move of the bottle bank has been a disaster - we generally dump our rubbish as we go shopping - nobody wants to trail down to the tube station to dispose of it. May I suggest that the corner of East End Road and the High Road with their backs against Budgens' wall would be handy and also out of the way and it is a very broad path there.

Yours sincerely,
anon.

Wildwood

Dear Sir,
One of the reasons for the recent defeat of the McDonald's Restaurant proposal was the potential desecration of Cherry Tree Wood with litter. How is it then that the residents of East Finchley cannot defeat the mindless morons who are systematically dismantling the children's playground in their woods.

During the summer the loutish teenage boys and girls of this area have been clambering over the fence during the early evening, drinking alcohol and loitering in the playground. While there, they have set fires and broken, kicked and hacked at their siblings' rides and swings. They have even left broken glass as traps to maim if possible.

When is something going to be done about this? Has anyone reported this to the police apart from myself? Is Barnet Council bothered? Are there any plans to repair this vandalism? Is there any chance that our off licences will stop selling alco-

hol to these under-age kill-joys? Perhaps *The Archer* can investigate these questions?

Gerard Donnachie
Hertford Road N2

Editor's Note: See the article on page 1 for Barnet Council's response to this problem.

Slow coach

Dear Sir,
Re your recent article. A friend and I went with SeeMore Travel under the Tunnel and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On the coach were a number of people I know who also enjoyed the trip.

The delay coming back was due to two young people taken off the coach by immigration officials.

We were delayed going and returning and SeeMore Travel made it plain that they did not know what was going to happen, as it was out of their hands when we arrived at Folkestone. I think for £10 we had good value for our money, and if it was offered again, we would go.

I do enjoy your paper.
Yours sincerely,
Violet G. Crouchley
Homefield Gardens N2

To Boldly Go

To boldly split an infinitive is one thing but to thrice split one is verging on foolhardiness.

Still, congratulations to *The Archer* for having the guts! The paper never does things halfheartedly and will have grammarians bickering for ages.

The breach I am referring to took place in last month's edition in the 'Tourist Attractions of East Finchley' article. In this David Hobbs states the North Circular enables tourists "to easily, quickly and comfortably reach" the area.

Peter Pedant
Summerlee Avenue

Editor's Note: First it was our spelling and now it's our grammar! But as far as I can remember, there is nothing actually wrong with splitting infinitives, just a question of taste.

If you have any views of the English language as she is now spoke in East Finchley, please send them in.

Air sickness

Dear Sir,
However sympathetically last month's letter by an ex-pilot talked about the joys of seeing aeroplanes flying over East Finchley, these same aeroplanes are a burden to some other inhabitants of the area. So it was quite astonishing to read that the author would wish the Concorde flew over our area as well.

On weekends, my husband and I are already often woken up around 6:00am by a succession of heavy-sounding, low-flying aeroplanes; and generally, the flight path over our area causes a lot of heavy, unpleasant noise. The thundering sound of the Concorde, which deprives many people elsewhere of ordinary nights of sleep and which disrupts daytime conversations, would aggravate this situation. In communities around Richmond, for instance, inhabitants robbed of their sleep even had to start a campaign to try and make Heathrow comply with its own rule that the Concorde does not fly before 6:00am and after midnight.

At a time when airports often plan runway extensions and expect to double their quantity of flights in the coming years, the airline industry has to deal with an increasing number of communities which object to the noise, frequency and nightly hours of low-flying aeroplanes. In view of these PR problems for the industry, a letter which celebrates the flight path over our area and regrets the absence of Concorde sightings may be taken as an invitation to divert even more aeroplanes here.

It may not be possible to set back the clock and diminish the amount of flights in general; but now that flights are expected to almost double, it would be nice if airport planners and airport builders would think of locations and flight paths in less densely populated areas.

Sincerely,
I.V. Eeghen
Western Road

FERGUSON'S LOT....

