



LETTERS

Supermarket sweep

Dear Sir

I came to live at this address in September 1955, originally sharing this house with various relations.

None of us remember a Tesco's near the Phoenix (Rex) Cinema at that time.

There was a hardware store for cleaning materials etc (the old ironmonger-style of shop) in the block near the cinema.

A small Tesco was located further up the High Road where I shopped when my children were born in the early 1960s.

The manager became a personal friend as most shopkeepers were in those days. He eventually retired to Buckland Close in Southern Road.

I also had many chats with one of his counter assistants - an Irish lady who lived in Park Hall Road.

As a young mum at the time, these chats kept me cheerful as we were more housebound in those days. Maternity leave did not exist and we did not own a car so my domestic life was very much bound up with East Finchley, in contrast to my working life of travelling into town every day.

After the manager of Tesco's

retired, he continued to cycle up and down Baronsmere Road every day for about a year and we still had regular chats.

His wife died soon after, however, and we lost contact. I will always, however, remember his courtesy. The shop itself had two counters, as self-service was introduced later.

Originally, East Finchley had a wide choice of fresh groceries. A small Sainsbury's with separate counters for each type of product was on the Barclays Bank site. On the site of Domino's Pizza was Williams Bros, well known for fresh delicatessen, and the Co-op was on the opposite side of the High Road further down.

You may also be interested to know that we originally had some very useful shops in the High Road leading from the station. There was a Start-Rite shoe shop, bakers and sweet shops all staffed by local people whom we knew as friends. Also, on the McDonalds side, our milkman and dairy existed.

Hope this will be of interest.

Sincerely,
Mrs Jeanne Wray,
Baronsmere Road, N2.

Shorter story

In our April edition we featured a short story by Jackie Randall of Summerlee Gardens and her four-and-a-half year old daughter Freya. It told how two squirrels, called Bushtail and Silver, planted four cherry stones in Cherry Tree Wood thus ensuring that in future years nobody would ask, "Why are there no cherry trees in Cherry Tree Wood?"

But truth can be stranger than fiction, for Lorna Roberts of East End Road was way ahead of those bushy tailed botanists. Here she tells us her own delightful story of how she made sure that there really are cherry trees in Cherry Tree Wood.

Dear Sir

Granny Roberts heard Bushtail and Silver's plan. She, too, had not been satisfied that there were no Cherry Trees in the Wood and wanted to see them sooner because she was much older.

So she wrote to The Council and offered to pay for some to be planted where she could see them from the East Finchley train when she went to Town. The Council kindly thanked her, but said THEY would plant them. And so they did, right near the railway line before the tunnel.

And in the many years - about 12 - since then, her grandchildren, travelling with their friends, point to them and say proudly, "My granny got those put in!"

Yours faithfully
Lorna Roberts (Granny)
East End Road, N2.

Let Bygones be Bygones

I sat by the white heart and brushed off the dust,
Washed away my sorrows to the only one I could trust.

She was all around me,

I could feel her breeze

Slip right through my body and paralyse my knees.

She was there when I called,

When I needed her most.

Even now she travels with me from coast to coast.

Brushing by the breeze,

Sifting through the sand,

Glowing in the moonlight rays,

There to hold my hand.

We had treasured times and a forgetful past,
We had lives to lead and a love that will always last.

That was then and here is now,

Always loving, Always caring,

Our love was most profound.

Encircling is the dawning sun,

For me you were the only one.

The green of the grass,

The hum of the bees,

You were always there for me.

Brushing by the breeze,

Sifting through the sand,

Glowing is the moonlight rays,

There to hold my hand.

Craig Johnson, aged 15, Sedgemere Avenue, N2.



East Finchley High Road today and tomorrow



The High Road looking north from the Bald Faced Stag 1910 and 1997. The pub is clearly recognisable but the church in 1910 with its splendid steeple burnt down in the early 1960s. The site was redeveloped as Viceroy Parade with shops and flats. Budgens, the Post Office and Iceland now serve the High Road.

Photos: Barnet Library Services (above) and David Tupman (below).



Oranges and Lemons

By Diana Cormack

A group of East Finchley parents have got together to create a unique way of commemorating the 150th anniversary of their children's school. By pooling their various talents they are putting together a light-hearted musical play that touches on many of the events which have occurred since Holy Trinity School opened in 1847. Members of the school drama club will perform the play entitled "Oranges and Lemons", subtitled "a musical history in East Finchley".

It was devised by Tark Butler, Terrina Friend and Carolyn Pickles, who is also the director. As well as able writers and thespians, the group has two choreographer mums, a lighting designer dad and a dad who works in special effects at the BBC so the project has become quite ambitious. Not only are they begging and borrowing much of the necessary equipment (some people and firms are being very generous) but they are also giving up a lot of their holiday and free time to ensure the success of the project.

They are doing it for the children, whom they feel very strongly should play a significant role in the celebrations. Rehearsing nearly fifty exuberant youngsters in acting, singing and dancing after a day's work or on a weekend afternoon when they could be putting their feet up is not exactly easy. Hopefully more of the children's parents will be able to help by chaperoning them during rehearsals, making or providing things for costumes and generally offering help where it is needed. It will be gratefully received!

Fruit cocktail

The whole thing comes to fruition on 10th and 11th July when the play will be performed in Holy Trinity Church. As the school has a high reputation for music and drama, this promises to be a popular event, so apply for your tickets early.

Other events planned to mark the opening of the first industrial church school in the country include a Service of Thanksgiving at the church on Sunday 6th July at 10am followed by a buffet reception at the school. There will also be a Grand Reunion event following the annual School Summer Fair on Saturday 12th July. At 1pm an exhibition called "Holy Trinity Past and Present" will open. There will be a beer tent and refreshments provided by local caterers and at 6pm entertainment provided by former pupils will begin (volunteers are needed for this).

Throughout the day past pupils, parents and staff will be able to renew acquaintances and they will be able to buy souvenirs of the occasion. These will include mugs, sweatshirts, a commemorative tea towel and even a book written by pupils of yesterday and today called "The Life and Times of Holy Trinity School". With all the planning and preparation going on, it should certainly turn out to be a memorable time for the pupils of Holy Trinity today.

Further details and information are available from Holy Trinity School 150th Anniversary Committee, c/o 17 Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, London N2 0JG or phone the school on 0181 883 1824.