



LETTERS

Please send your letters to: The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail: The-Archer@England.com

Flat reply

Dear Sirs

I was most disappointed to read my integrity impugned in the June edition of the paper.

I have never made any secret of my association with Greyclide Ltd which was incorporated in 1972 and anyone who wishes to make a search of that Company, as you have done, will see that I am listed quite openly as both a Shareholder and Director.

Since its incorporation almost 30 years ago, Greyclide Ltd which is registered with the NHBC as a Housebuilder has specialised in the conversion and construction of residential property, primarily for the first time purchaser.

At a time that we have seen property prices adjust themselves from the depths of the recession of the late eighties to the levels at which they are today, I consider that producing homes for first time buyers sits very comfortably with my credentials in relation to the Finchley environment in general and East Finchley in particular.

In your report you failed to mention that the bungalow presently located on this site is already surrounded and overlooked by flats.

Surely, it makes better sense to the environment to use under-developed residential sites to the advantage of those starting on the ladder of house purchase.

Yours faithfully Martyn Gerrard FNAEA

Re: A tall story

Dear Editor

I was very interested to read your article concerning the proposal to build a three story block of flats, with parking for 7 cars on the site of an existing bungalow in Park Road. This is yet another example of the creeping encroachment of high-density properties into this area.

What particularly caught my attention were the names of the developers. You made the straight connection with Martyn Gerrard, and the local estate agents of the same name. What you probably missed, however, was that the other director of Greyclide Ltd, Jeffrey Harrington, was certainly a partner with Martyn Gerrard, Estate Agents, five years ago (when we last moved house), and probably is today.

Perhaps if Mr Gerrard is unavailable for comment, because of his overseas commitments, Mr Harrington might not be! the\_horts@talk21.com

Dropping standards

Dear Archer,

I thought that the front-page article about cruelty to animals was an excellent piece of reporting - interesting, informative, useful.

It is a pity that the other article fell short of your normal high standards. To suggest that a named local member of the community with business interests has 'environmental' credentials just because they campaigned against the Brent Cross expansion or to suggest that someone who plans to redevelop a brown-field site with a higher density of residences is 'not environmental' suggests a lack of understanding of the issues involved.

Clearly, local residents are right to be concerned to ensure that their rights to light and privacy are not infringed and should be angry at the lack of notice, however, given the enormous need for homes in the London area, I would rather see a sensitively designed three storey building on that scruffy corner of East Finchley than any further encroachment of our green spaces.

Sincerely Tony Roberts, Sedgemere Avenue, N2 In your corner?

Dear Editor,

I am wondering whether there are any former members of the Corner Club reading THE ARCHER.

The club used to meet in East Finchley Congregational Church Hall in East End Road. It was formed in 1948 by the then minister of the Congregational Church (the Rev. Gordon S. Clyde) as a means of continuing camaraderie and friendship for ex-members of the armed forces - and others, of course, with somewhere for them to meet and chat on a regular basis.

On the inaugural evening, which I believe was in March 1948, the hall was crowded with some 2-300 people. Unfortunately, there was a power blackout, which didn't help matters!

The Club progressed with quite a good membership, there being games, debates, talks, rambles, musical evenings, quizzes and ballroom dances. It continued on a regular weekly meeting basis until it disbanded in, I believe, 1952.

It would be most interesting to hear of former members.

Incidentally, am I right in thinking that the archer on the tube station is slightly more than 60 this year, as I seem to remember that the tube station was built just before the outbreak of the war?

Yours sincerely, Peter Down, West Molesey, Surrey.

The Archer replies:- Archie wants to confirm that he is only 60, having appeared in 1940. We've checked with London Underground. (See our article on page 4.)

Savage attack

Dear Editor

I was pleasantly reading the paper this week and decided to read a column I often avoid, "Kalashnikov Kultur". The slogan "the voice of social irresponsibility" puts me off completely.

I think Ricky must be someone going through a mid-life crisis and the only way he is able to vent his frustrations is by writing a highly embarrassing column where he simply slags off English sport amongst other things.

As a matter of fact, Pele rated the footy team as the best in Europe. Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski are consistently in the top ten in the WORLD and Henman has reached the last two semis at Wimbledon.

And as for the somewhat troubled cricket team, their plight is not aided by dull old columnists criticising them.

The country should get behind their national team and Savage

should think of something more constructive and ultimately more interesting for his column.

Yours faithfully Gordon Parabola Ricky says: I'm not opposed to British sport, just British incompetence.

Reply to the Soap box

Dear Archer

Re: The continuing saga of the East Finchley Constitutional Club Ladies Night. I would like to apologise to all the ladies that had a great time on the evening about the rude, short-sighted, narrow-minded person that wrote in the last edition of THE ARCHER.

R Walton (Not a made up name)

Constitutional Club

Dear Editor

In reply to your "Soapbox" article relating to entertainment at The East Finchley Constitutional Club, I wish to inform readers that P Caddy is NOT a member of the Club and would inform him or her that we have far more Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, Christenings, First Communion and, sadly, Funeral Parties than the Ladies Night referred to, which are much appreciated by our members.

It is also time he or she grew up because even the Prime Minister praised the WI for stripping off for their 2000 Calendar.

The Secretary East Finchley Constitutional Club Ltd, N2

Save our snails!

Dear Editor

It is, I'm afraid, fanatical gardeners like Zena Robson who are largely responsible for the steady extinction of the bird with the most wonderful song of all - the song thrush.

The song thrush's main food is the snail. The bird holds the snail in its beak and dashes it against a stone to break the shell. Ms Robson should put any snails she sees in a place where they can be seen by birds flying overhead, not squash them underfoot. In that way she will be helping to restore the population of this wonderful bird, now rapidly becoming an endangered species.

Yours faithfully H. Frankel Park Road, N2

GARDENING

Summer Sun

By Zena Robson

July - and at last, summer is here (I hope!). I don't know about you, but my plants have gone berserk this year - all that mild weather and rain has made stuff grow like crazy and, I have to say, the lupins have been wonderful.

Constant squishing of aphids seems to have done the trick and, to keep them flowering for as long as possible, I cut off the dying spires fairly rapidly - don't let them go to seed unless you want to collect it - the plant's energy will be diverted from flowering.

Deadhead Daily

This principle applies to herbaceous and annuals so bedding plants need to be deadheaded every day. Don't just pull off the dead flower head on things like petunias; follow the stalk down to the main stem and nip it off at the join. That way you will get more flowers and a more compact plant. The big, showy Oriental Poppy has finished flowering by now and just makes a mass of messy leaves; shear the whole thing down to the ground and new fresh leaves will grow. Do the same with Geranium "Johnson's Blue" and Alchemilla Mollis to stop them from spraying seed in every direction and encourage them to have another, later-flowering season.

Three Ds

If you have shrubs like Deutzia or Philadelphus that have finished flowering, prune them now. The 3 Ds for any pruning are: Dead, Diseased, Damaged - look for them first and remove. Cut back the flowered wood by a third to a half to just above a leaf node. On old plants you will need to take out as much as one in three of the stems all the way down to the base. This will help to rejuvenate the shrub; early flowering shrubs (i.e. those that flower before mid-July) generally flower on one-year-old wood, in other words the new growth that it will make during the rest of this year into next.

Label your Lilies

Have you got any summer flowering bulbs in your garden or containers? I use Alliums and Lilies especially - the wonderful structural heads of the Allium Christophii and the delicious evening scent of Lilium Regale make them a must. Plant them on a handful of grit for drainage and be on the lookout for them in garden centres in September. Always label where you plant; it's all too easy to spear them with a fork. Watch out for the scarlet lily beetle - it's now in London and heading for a lily near you! It prefers lilies and fritillarias and has a neat trick of falling on to its red back and displaying its black underparts making it almost impossible to spot. Pick it off into a jamjar (with lid!) and then empty under a convenient size 10.

Luscious Lawns

Keep mowing lawns every week and don't be tempted to think that by cutting very low you won't need to do it so often. I'm sorry to tell you that it has the opposite effect as a rule or, alternatively, will lead to the "Invasion of the Mosses" and ultimate grass death. Mowing too closely on an uneven lawn will lead to "scalping" - sounds painful and looks it! Remember that lawns, if they are going to look halfway decent, are the most labour-intensive part of any garden - you have been warned!

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