



LETTERS

Rat Race

Dear Editor

As a resident in the Summerlee Estate, I, too, was glad to see the implementation of the Traffic Island Scheme at Baronsmere Road and the High Road. Traffic in the area has considerably diminished since the traffic island was installed, even though "Rat Runners" still drop down into Southern Road before returning to Fortis Green, to gain a few places in the queue. However, due to the design of the traffic island, intrepid motorists are still able to "U" turn in the High Road, and gain access to Baronsmere from the left-hand turn which has been left in place. Surely a complete barring of access to Baronsmere road would have been the intelligent option?

Your point about new CPZ is well taken, and I have a letter from the Chief Engineer of Barnet Highways service confirming that the scheme was approved by the Council on May 30th, and will be implemented by the end of the year, six months later than originally estimated. One wonders why the application of yellow paint and the installation of a number of signs will take 6 months...All of the residents in the Estate will be very glad to see the last of the cheapskates who use our roads as no-cost commuter parking. However, all of this will have been in vain if the parking restrictions are not enforced. Currently, cars can be left parked on yellow corner lines practically all day in the Summerlee Estate, and indeed can be double parked in some streets, without sign of a Traffic Warden. Calls to Barnet Council are fended off with the information that Parking enforcement has been

contracted out to a private company, who obviously have rather lax terms of contract. Surely it is the Council's responsibility to enforce their own parking regulations?

Sincerely,
John McMillan
Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Killiney

Dear Sir,

My mother and father were married in 1933, at Holy Trinity church in Church Lane.

I came across their marriage certificate, and found that at the time of the marriage my father was residing at "Killiney", Church Lane.

Would it be possible to find out the exact location of a house named "Killiney" in Church Lane?

Yours sincerely,
D.J. Clark,
Leslie Road.

The Archer replies:- Barnet Local History Archives came up with the answer. It was no.71.

Barnet Archives are in Egerton Gardens, NW4 (opposite Barnet Town Hall and Central Library). Opening hours 9.30-5.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, and 12.30- 7.00pm on Thursday, closing for lunch between 12.30 and 1.30pm. Closed on Monday, Friday and Saturday. Tel. 8359 2876.

Another one bites the dust

Dear Sir

It is with great sadness that I watch yet another small business bite the dust under the overwhelming weight of a supermarket's extended hours.

Mr Sadik, who has worked extremely hard to set up and run the

small grocery and convenience shop next to the Phoenix cinema for the past year, has been forced to sell up. He is certainly not alone.

The council proudly claims the title of "Village" for East Finchley, with the community here certainly reflecting its village spirit, yet it watches the very small enterprises that make up a village and serve the community suffocate and disappear without the slightest support.

Sincerely
Nicola Scott
Baronsmere Road, N2

Thanks to Mr G H Hoerr of Korokoro Petone, New Zealand who sent us a copy of the paper as downloaded from our website accompanied by a photo of the picturesque location from which he was browsing.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Light Opera

By Len Willcocks

Once again, a juggernaut has knocked flying the traffic lights on Domino's Corner (the corner of Fortis Green and the High Road). Delays and hold-ups are regular events at this busy junction with police having to control the traffic.

When will the council act to stop these vehicles turning into a road that is far too narrow for them?

They should be banned now before more damage is done.



Who's for Tennis?

By Priscilla Astrop

Miss Joan Hunter-Dunne Is having such fun, Now that the season's begun.

She heads for the courts, wearing white shorts, Hoping to meet some good sports.

Her partner so tall Murmurs "Love All" It seems he is starting to fall.

Her friends say "congrat" For he's quite a catch. It really is "Game, Set and Match".

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GARDENING

Electric bulbs

By Zena Robson

It's bulb-buying time and I will mention again the lilies and alliums that will soon be available. Put your running shoes on and get down to your garden centre early to have the best choice.

Daffodils are still a favourite - thank goodness for them; don't they make you sigh with relief when you see the first ones popping up in February? Buy a selection of cultivars to give you a long flowering period and think carefully where to put the biggest ones - you know how tetchy you get when the leaves seem to last forever!

Baby bloomers

Small types like "Jetfire", "Hawara" and "February Gold" look good in containers near the house or on a rockery. My favourite larger ones are the flat-faced, short-trumpet ones like Narcissus "Pheasant's Eye" and "Actaea" - both deliciously scented with good strong stems ideal for cutting. If you have a dampish spot then try Camassias - their blue spires take over from bluebells.

Talking of which, don't be tempted to accept the generous offering from a well-meaning friend of "you can have some of mine". Ten to one they'll be the Spanish type that will rampage around your entire garden with their leathery big leaves. Look for the English type, Hyacinthoides non-scripta, and only buy from a reputable firm.

Woodworms

Bluebell and snowdrop thieves are decimating our natural woodland areas so always ask where the stock comes from. If the reply is not simply "cultivated stock", do not buy. Snowdrops, cyclamen coum and winter aconites (Eranthis) are best bought "in the green" in spring so don't waste your money buying shrivelled corms and bulbs.

Whatever you choose, be bold. Plant in clumps and drifts rather than the "dotty" approach. Yes, you'll have to pay out initially but think what you'll get back. I plant crocus and snowdrops by the hundreds and lilies etc by the tens and twenties for best effects.

Mowing the Lawn by Moonlight

Mowing the lawn by moonlight Is an experience quite profound, The noise of the blades is deafening As they spin round and round. Trimming the edge is unnecessary As you can't see what you're doing, It's best to evade a hack with a spade Just to leave the grass in a ruin.

You could prop up your torch In the back door porch, Wear a miner's hat (But I've never tried that). It's best to admit whilst you're cursing God Nocturnal mowing is a bit of a sod.

By Melvyn Friend of Manor Park Road, East Finchley

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