



LETTERS

Bald Faced Cheek

Dear Sir

So Punch Retail are thinking of changing the name of "The Bald Faced Stag" to "The Stag" - WHY? Because it is "cleaner" and more "contemporary" - Lordy! They must be exhausted, thinking that up.

Can't they leave well alone? It will always be "The Bald Faced Stag" - regardless.

As to "Bald Faced" - I have always understood it to be Old English for "White Faced". Think of the American Emblem - that eagle has a white head and is called a Bald Eagle!

By the way, I believe there is a picture, somewhere, of troops refreshing themselves at "The Bald Faced Stag" on their way to The Battle of Barnet.

All those years ago - but what is history?

Yours sincerely
Philip Newman
Bedford Road, N2.

Contamination Fear

Dear Sir

In addition to the argument of overcrowding and over development rehearsed in your February edition, there is another reason why the Texaco site should not be used for housing development and that is the fact that because of its previous use as a garage, it is contaminated land.

Those of us in the legal profession who deal in conveyancing are fully aware of the concerns about properties built on land where the previous use involved chemicals - eg petrol, gas etc and the need to ensure that such land has been made safe.

Did the Planning Committee take this into consideration when giving its approval?

Aware of its previous use, I for one would not wish to live on this site.

Yours sincerely
Joyce Arram
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Preserving East Finchley Station from passengers

Dear Editor

Down by the station, early in the morning see the poor commuters there all in a row.... I have only travelled three times this week. Wednesday small ticket machine out of service, no information as to why, two out of three ticket windows open - 10 minute wait.

Thursday the same, only there is a notice on the machine saying "awaiting technician" - 15-minute wait. Friday arrive much later. Small machine fixed, but the big one, which takes notes and credit cards, now out of action. Two windows open but the minute I get in the queue, one shuts for no apparent reason. Someone wants a rail card - 5-minute wait. Half an hour of my life lost this week just getting a ticket for the tube!

"How is the modernisation of the ticketing here going?" I ask when I finally get to the window. "It's not", I'm told. "We can't do

anything because of the Preservation Society".

So - who is this Preservation Society that is preventing London Underground from selling us tickets? Hopefully the sleuths from *The Archer* who found out that the excuse about English Heritage being the culprits was a load of old rubbish, can shed some light on this very anti-social organisation.

Meanwhile I think London Underground managers should think about starting a preservation society - for their jobs. I am thinking of inviting Bob Kiley to join me on my quest to buy a ticket one morning.

Bob Grove
Durham Road, N2.

If it ain't broke...

Dear Editor

We see that Barnet has blocked off the access to East Finchley via Baronsmere Road resulting in traffic jams elsewhere, particularly in Twyford Avenue, Fortis Green and East Finchley High Road, sometimes backlogging up to Archway and Highgate.

Commuters are encouraged to use public transport and leave their cars behind, but car parks fill up quickly and nearby roads discourage parking. Perhaps the answer would be to provide a multi-storey car park at the station?

Walking through Abbots Gardens, East Finchley, last week, we noted the newly painted restrictions and spoke to two of the residents. They told us that there have never

been parking problems in Abbots Gardens and the restrictions are unnecessary and costly and that they will shortly be required to pay for residents' parking. We too, in Church Vale, have no parking problems and we hope that we speak for many of the residents in Church Vale and the nearby streets, when we ask Haringey Council not to interfere with that which does not need any interference, and quote John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), "The sole end for which mankind are warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number, is self-protection."

Thus, we residents of Haringey, have entitlement to interfere with the actions of Haringey Council's proposed CPZ. We don't have a problem; don't create one! It ain't broke, don't fix it!

Dr and Mrs Eddy Levin
Church Vale, London N2.

Border Blues

Dear Sir

First, thanks to you and your team for continuing to produce such an interesting community newspaper.

Some of its readers live in Haringey, not Barnet. So may I just request that when you mention "the Borough", you specify that you are referring to Barnet, so that those of us "over the border" don't get confused.

Yours faithfully
Wendy Fox
Shakespeare Gardens, N2.

GARDENING

Sowing the Seeds

By Zena Robson

The few good days nearly had me leaping out and about with the mower, but inspection of the lawn changed my mind; goodness knows when the excitement of the first cut will send a shudder of joy through my lawn mower.

April is a good time to give a lawn a feed but it will have to be after a cut or two when the thing is actively growing anyway; weeds can be dealt with by buying a combination weed/feed but moss looks like it is going to be a major problem. Its growth is encouraged by compacted soils, poor drainage, shade from overgrowing trees and mowing too closely.

Sterling moss

Don't be inclined to go at it with the rake until it has been killed off, as the spores will simply be spread around even more. Lawn sand is a good compromise as it not only deals with moss and some weeds, but also contains ammonium sulphate to feed and colour up the grass that's left.

Once dead moss has been raked out, there may be areas that need to be re-seeded. Do both about three weeks after the application.

If you grow bulbs in the grass you will need to leave the foliage alone for about six weeks. The same applies to bulbs in the borders and that terrible habit of tying the foliage into clumps makes me take a sharp intake of breath! The leaves need all the light they can get to photosynthesise properly and, indeed, a handful of general purpose fertiliser applied around bulbs after they finish flowering will boost them for next year.

I'm itching to start seed sowing for my summer annuals. Heated propagators are a boon here but as I am a windowsill juggler I will have to wait until temperatures and light-levels are more reliable.

High stakes

If you grow quite tall perennials that need staking, get the stakes in place before the whole thing gets out of hand - we have all been to the string-in-the-teeth and not-enough-hands scenario, but do we learn? Some perennials that will be sprouting from the base like Delphiniums and Lupins can be used to take basal cuttings for new plants. Cut off an emerging strong shoot, remove the lower leaves, trim up to the bottom lead node and pot up in well-drained compost. They'll need a light windowsill and should root fairly quickly.

Love Story

25 years ago, Jeremy, a 16 year old South African boy, moved to Eastern Transvaal and soon settled down at his new school where he met a girl aged 15 named Malta. He fell in love, but Malta was already involved with another boy, so Jeremy's love stayed unrequited.

Later Jeremy emigrated to the UK to pursue his passion as a musician and songwriter. Throughout the next 25 years his songs had two recurring themes, one of a bright hope for tomorrow, the other was of a mysterious woman, never named, holding an obvious place in his heart. One particular chorus reflects this latter theme. "Why is she the queen of this heart in London town, but she's under an African sky?"

In 1997 he took up a course in radiography, at the end of which, last summer, he had to do a work experience placement. He chose to do this in Cape Town where, at a party, he met... yes, Malta. A brief romance ensued, during which Jeremy discovered that his first love had also fallen for him all those years ago.

Alas, Jeremy had to return to London, where he constantly thought of Malta, so he borrowed some money, and flew to her. He proposed marriage, she accepted, and they returned to London.

The wedding took place at 2pm on 3 February 2001 with Malta looking every bit a woodland goddess in a beautiful claret dress and floral crown. When Jeremy and Malta exchanged their vows, I doubt whether there was a dry eye in the house, such was the joy and love that radiated from the couple as they gazed into each other's eyes.

At the reception, when the formal speeches were concluded, Jeremy



Jeremy and Malta. Photo by Kevin Finn

sang his song and this time the mysterious woman, for whom he longed, was with him, and was his wife. It is rare to come across such a love story, and I hope you will join me in wishing the couple a long and happy partnership. I hope that Malta continues to inspire many beautiful songs.

For that special occasion ...
or a simple meal

All your cuts of meat can be purchased from

Tom's Butchers

100 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9EB. 020 8883 8472

• No Call Out Fee
• FREE Estimates
• Competitive Rates

EAST FINCHLEY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

NO JOB TOO SMALL

(Est. 25 Years)

020 8444 5630

115 High Road, London N2

www.ef-elec.co.uk

CHIVERS BROS.

Before making a major expedition elsewhere try us.
We are a local shop run by Lawrence and Roger Chivers.

For the Motorist we have a huge range of products with help and advice from informed staff.

For the Handyman we stock a comprehensive range of extremely good value tools and other DIY products.

For the Gardener we stock a good range of gardening tools.

113 High Road, London N2 8AG, 020 8883 8628