



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Musical Memories

Dear Editor,

It was a pleasure to read your latest issue of *THE ARCHER*. Although I am no longer a resident of East Finchley, I still have connections with the area, having lived at Fairacres (East End Road) for over 10 years.

In response to your appeal for information on famous people associated with East Finchley, you may be interested to learn that the Goossens sisters, Marie and Sidonie, lived in East End Road. They were both world-famous exponents of the harp.

The Goossens were also neighbours of a close friend of mine, who is another well-known musician, Henry van Emden. Henry has played for many of our Prime Ministers at official functions, as well as European royalty, and has also accompanied a host of personalities of TV, films and the stage. He is actively involved with the Coda Club as a committee member. This is a well-known club for musicians, composers, arrangers, etc, and is connected with the Concert Artistes Association in Bedford Street, WC1.

Henry has many stories to tell about his long career in "show-biz". Whilst in the Forces during the last war, he broadcast on the American Forces Network, and his band followed that of the famous Benny Goodman. Although retired, he still entertains at retirement homes and clubs, as well as doing professional gigs.

To change the subject, I believe you are familiar with Fairacres (164, East End Road), and wonder if you know the history of the original building - the white house, which I understand was part of the home of a Lord of the Realm.

Yours sincerely,
PP Sanders (Mrs),
Hanover Mead, NW11.

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.

Signing Off

By I.C. Daley

Early in April orange plastic notices were put up to inform us that the CPZ scheme was delayed until the end of the month. These notices are still on display, adding to the unnecessary clutter hanging about our streets. Barnet was pretty quick when it was forced to put them up. Why are they so tardy in removing them?

Next time you are out, just take a look at the number of signs posted on your particular stretch of pavement. Surely it would have been possible to double or even treble up the amount of signs on each post? People are not stupid - they can differentiate between one sign and another. Also, why is it necessary to have so many of the same signs for drivers in such close proximity? If they are that shortsighted or unobservant, they shouldn't be driving anyway!

People who publicise events by attaching notices to trees, lampposts, fences, etc, should be obliged to remove them after the event on penalty of a fine from their profits. There is a plethora of them at this time of year. In the weeks to come they will be blowing about our streets or horribly disintegrating beside rusty drawing pins, the graffiti equal of East Finchley do-gooders! If you can be bothered to stick up a notice, please make the effort to take it down!

Conservation concerns ignored

Dear Editor,

I wish to reply to Councillor Suzette Palmer's letter in last month's issue of *THE ARCHER*.

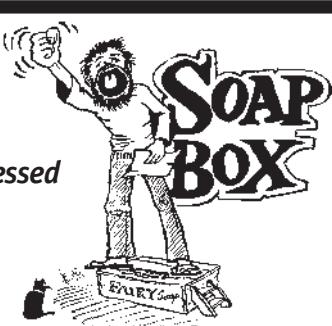
In 1983 when Coppetts Wood was under threat from development, a group of local residents arose to protect this piece of green space. These volunteers, under the name of Coppetts Wood Conservationists removed many tons of rubbish, dug ponds, laid footpaths, put up bird-boxes and bat-boxes, made the site safe for visitors and wildlife, brought in wildlife experts to survey for rare plants and animals. We also brought in students from schools and colleges as a project site for their GCSEs, A-levels and diplomas.

However since last July the Council decided that we may no longer work on the site. As elsewhere, the Council ignores the views of local residents and so our advice was ignored.

Although heartened by Susette Palmer's appreciation of our work, we are still not allowed to work on the site, nor bring in school parties. Clearly officers in the Council do not share her views.

The Council has now taken over from us the management of this site. Go and see for yourselves how this nature reserve is now overrun by mountain cyclists and motorcyclists who churn up footpaths and disturb local residents. So now footpaths are dangerous and accidents likely. Pathside herbs have been eliminated, bramble barriers to keep visitors from back gardens have been removed. All because we were ignored.

Then the Council embarked on a programme of spraying weedkiller onto Japanese knotweed. We asked the Council not to



spray three small patches until we put up protective barriers. The Council refused to discuss this issue and insisted on spraying weedkiller close to areas where Great Crested Newts and even rarer plants are breeding. We were ignored.

Do your readers think that we are wrong in trying to protect rare and endangered species?

Is Susette Palmer claiming that the Council and our local group and wildlife experts were all wrong - for 18 long years?

I have repeatedly asked Councillor Susette Palmer to visit the site with us so that she can see the problem for herself.

The invitation still stands. The door is still open.

We are still waiting to work on the site and bring in school parties again.

We are still waiting for Susette Palmer to visit the site with us and see for herself the problem.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Oliver Natelson
Hollickwood Avenue, Friern
Barnet, N12.

Trouble makers

Dear Editor

I would like to suggest that you stop publishing unsigned letters. All items in your paper, including letters, should have the name of the author or be dealt with in an editorial. It is usually troublemakers who seem to wish their names to be withheld.

The letter in *THE ARCHER* of May 2001 (No 96) was so full of inaccuracies that it is not worth replying to.

I would suggest that the London Borough of Barnet be given the opportunity to answer the points raised as the letter is a dreadful slur on all the planning, consultation, preparation etc that they did.

I have taken an interest in this scheme and found all the staff in the Traffic and Transportation Section of the Highways Service to be very helpful and prompt in replying to letters. Their professionalism and standards of consultation were above what is legally necessary.

Please don't print letters from anonymous troublemakers, it only encourages them!

Yours sincerely
Anthony Ormerod
The Causeway, N2

Disillusioned

Dear Editor

My husband and I retired and chose to settle in England five years ago because we believed it to be a peaceful and civilized country. However, recent events have completely changed our minds.

We were taunted on several occasions by teenagers while walking to Muswell Hill. I can see no reason for this unprovoked insult, except for the fact that we are Asians. We understandably felt angry but had no one to turn to.

A worse blow came on 28

May when my daughter's car, parked outside our house, was vandalised and had the rear window and rear left light broken. The damage was caused by stones thrown by some passers-by along the footpath next to our establishment.

We reported the incident to the police but the response was very frustrating. The officer in charge at Barnet Police Station said nothing could be done and we should be on the lookout for such hooligans on our own. This is beyond my understanding. We pay council tax that covers the cost of maintaining the police and educating the young. But all we get in return is vandalism.

The police do not want to be involved. They treat such "daily" incidents as very minor and not worth their efforts. However, they must understand that cars are part of our assets in the same way as our property. Nobody wants any harm to come to them.

Are the police to ignore such incidents until stones are thrown at us before they will do something?

What with the Oldham incidents, Asians in this country are living in constant fear - not through any fault of their own, except for the fact that they have a darker complexion.

Please let us know where and from whom we can obtain the protection and peace of mind that we rightly deserve.

Yours truly
Anita Yeung
Greenfield Drive, N2.

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That's Our Car!

Dear Sir,

My wife and I were reading the May issue of *THE ARCHER*, and noted the picture of the car that had crashed on the High Road, by Creighton Avenue.

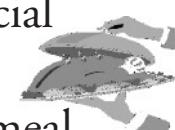
It came as some surprise to us as it gradually dawned on us that this was our car! To be accurate, this had been our car up to about three weeks previously, when we had sold it on to someone who needed a vehicle.

This little car has an interesting history, in that it has been passed from owner to owner at little or no cost for the past two years. In each case the new owner was someone who needed a car at short notice, and the little Renault stepped in. Including us, my wife and I know of four other local owners who had the pleasure of this car, and each was able to pass it on, until that sad day this spring.

Alas nobody else will benefit from this Samaritan of a motor car, but, perhaps, some will mourn its passing.

Kevin Finn
Chapel Court, N2.

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