



LETTERS

The White Stuff

Dear Sir

I am appalled at all the building going on in East Finchley and I'm relieved to find I'm not the only one who feels this way.

I wanted to tell you what I, as an individual, have done in case you feel it might be appropriate to suggest the same to readers of THE ARCHER - to try and stop this building onslaught. No one can guarantee a result but I would have thought that the more of us who write to the various powers that be, the more likely they are to listen to us.

I have written to everyone I can think of, voicing my objections, namely Mr Nick Raynsford at the DETR (someone at Barnet Council recommended me to write to the DETR about this because he said that Barnet are having to respond to central government policy). However, I wanted Barnet to know of my opinion, so I also copied the letter to Mr Prince - the Area Planning Officer at Barnet Planning Department for Finchley and Golders Green - and then Rudi Vis MP, the GLA Planning Decisions Unit, Mr Keith Hill also at the DETR, and even Mr Timothy Loughton and Mr Tom Brake who are Mr Raynsford's Conservative and Liberal Democrat counterparts respectively.

These are my thoughts for what they're worth.

Yours sincerely Name and address supplied

Aerial Action

Dear Editor

I am a resident at Mansfield Heights, Great North Road. You may or may not know that Haringey Council have given permission under Part 24 of the Town & Country Planning Act for BT Cellnet to erect a telecommunications aerial complete with pavement box outside our building and The Chestnuts.

Residents in the area have complained and sent in a petition against the proposals but Haringey Planners say they have no option but to grant permission under the Part 24 of the Act.

This means that there will be a large installation on the top of the Great North Rd. Bearing in mind all the issues around these cables/installations, is there anything you can do to publicise it? A lot of people will be unaware that this is happening and we should present a united front to DETR on legal issues surrounding such works which we are being told we are currently powerless to do anything about!

Lyn Falkner Mansfield Heights, N2.

Seeing yellow

Dear Sir

Did my letter on the road markings which you kindly printed in last month's issue of THE ARCHER do the trick? Regretfully, I do not feel that the joint efforts of THE ARCHER and myself can take the credit. The reason why some of the road markings have no logic whatsoever is due to the borough's parking programme.

Why were not the residents, whose homes and cars are affected, consulted before this arbitrary laying down of yellow lines took place? Take the junction of Summerlee Avenue and Fortis Green, the yellow line into the Avenue runs for only a few inches. Result, one of the offending cars is STILL parked in the Avenue, causing an obstruction. I gather the Council's reasoning is that if the yellow line was any longer it would cause problems for the refuse lorries! I would have thought the opposite was the case - the lorries need GREATER space to turn into the road, not less.

Then, in Summerlee Gardens at the cul-de-sac end, the yellow line stops short so that cars could be parked obstructing the end used as a turning place for cars. Or did the workmen run out of paint? In addition the yellow lines at the start of the Gardens appear to have been extended unnecessarily. Where is the sense in this?

Yours sincerely Joyce Arram Summerlee Gardens, N2.

Too late

Dear Archer

So, the CPZ has arrived. It's true it lurked somewhere in the back of my mind that the council was up to something with parking in East Finchley but the extent of the craziness had not dawned on me fully until I saw people painting yellow lines and white boxes on every road that you could imagine.

So now I have to pay to park my car to collect my post from the Market Place post office. I am discouraged from shopping at local shops and will feel more inclined to go that little bit further to Tesco's where I do not have to pay for the honour of doing my shopping.

Of course if I want to go into London during the middle of the day, the parking at East Finchley station will be full and so I will have to drive around to try and find a piece of road that is not daubed with yellow paint. All of which means that I am adding to pollution and wear and tear on the environment.

If the idea was to stop people parking in the streets while they went off to town to work, would it not have been cheaper to introduce the system they use in Harrow? There they simply introduced parking restrictions on side roads between 9am and 11am every weekday with yellow lines. It stops people parking all day, doesn't require expensive coin machines to issue tickets, repair contracts to repair them when they go wrong, wages of people to empty them etc etc but still encourages people to shop locally.

Extensive consultation eh? No-one came anywhere near me to ask what I thought but then I have become used to that. Could it be that this is just another money making scheme dreamt up by Barnet? Perish the thought...

Disgruntled resident (name supplied) East End Road, N2.

Friends and relations

Dear Archer,

I am fairly new to the Internet, and discovered quite by chance your pages, which have a great personal interest for me.

My grandfather, Alfred Abrey, moved from here (Melbourn, Cambridgeshire) in about 1905, and opened a laundry in Veranda House, The Walks, East Finchley. His last surviving daughter, Mrs Kathleen Dew, lives in New Oak Road, and has been interviewed for you by Daphne Chamberlain.

I was married in the old East Finchley Congregational Church in 1960, and lived for some time on Hampstead Garden Suburb.

I am just about to complete your "Become a Friend of The Archer", as I am most anxious to be kept in touch with matters in East Finchley.

Many thanks, Anthony C. Abrey, Melbourn, Cambs.

By any other name?

Dear Archer

I have written to Punch Taverns about their deplorable decision to try to rename The Bald Faced Stag.

As importantly, I have drawn their attention to the comments of the police at the March Forum that the pub gave "cause for concern". I have also expressed my disquiet at the application for later opening on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Your readers might like to know that the phone number of Punch Taverns is 020 7935 3536. The Fax number is 020 7935 7090. The Chairman is Hugh Osmond.

Good luck. Councillor John Marshall

What's the rush?

Dear Editor

My problem is that I live on East Finchley High Road and the crossroads between Fortis Green and East End Road is almost a death trap. You get only 10 seconds to cross the road: it should be at least 20 seconds!

The council and these thoughtless drivers are both as dangerous as each other. Are there any other opinions on this?

Yours sincerely Louisa Parker Diploma Avenue, N2.

Tax Dodge

Dear Sir

Enclosed with this year's Council Tax Bill comes a leaflet that tries to give the impression that the Tax Bill has only gone up by twice the underlying rate of inflation - i.e. by 3.5%. Written in small print is the fact that the Neighbourhood Warden Service costs an additional £0.14 per week.

The only financial fact that ever matters to taxpayers, is how much extra do they actually have to pay. In my case, last year's monthly payment was £118.00, whereas this year's will be £126.00. Now this, in anybody's language, is an increase of 6.78%, nearly four times the underlying rate of inflation, not 3.5%.

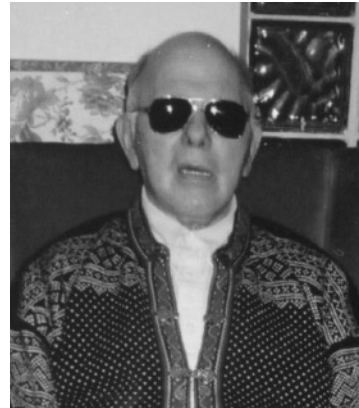
I think it is outrageous that the council should be so dishonest with us and treat us like idiots.

Yours sincerely J Beveridge Baronsmere Rd, N2

Obituary - Godfrey Faulkner

By Daphne Chamberlain

Last month we published an interview with Godfrey Faulkner, who told us of his experiences as a Japanese war crimes commissioner.



Sadly missed - Godfrey Faulkner

When I interviewed him, I ended up with enough fascinating information to fill the whole of the paper. Sadly, Godfrey did not live long enough to judge the final article. He died quite suddenly in April.

His daughter, Amanda Silver, summed him up as "quite a character. He had a great sense of humour, but also great dignity and fortitude".

Godfrey was a diabetic, virtually blind, and on kidney dialysis three times a week. The first time I met him, he said that somebody had once told him, "Never think that because you can't see, you're alone", and he retained a passion for bridge. He played with large cards, supplied by the Doncaster Partially Sighted Society, had a telescopic lens to his glasses, and was enthusiastic about his talking microwave and scales.

He described himself to me as "very independent, pig-headed and stubborn". Sippy Azizollah, a fellow resident of Fairacres, accommodation for Jewish Blind and Disabled, agreed that he was stubborn, but said, "We will all miss him a lot".

That was echoed by Reuby Hyams, organiser of Fairacres Monday Club, who told us, "He was a stalwart, a big man physically and socially. He joined in everything we put on,

and sometimes helped me out with topics for discussion".

When the Monday Club celebrated its 13th anniversary last year, Godfrey supplied the vote of thanks. He said, "We have music, entertainment, and even socio-economic talks to put the world right. We haven't succeeded, but it's good fun trying".

Advertisement for Tom's Butchers. Text: 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.

Advertisement for EAST FINCHLEY ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS. Text: No Call Out Fee, FREE Estimates, Competitive Rates. 020 8444 5630. 115 High Road, London N2. www.ef-elec.co.uk

Advertisement for CHIVERS BROS. Text: 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.