



Matches

By Reuby Hyams

You all know me,
I stand in the street,
Matches in hand,
No boots to my feet.
Medals on chest,
I've got two or three,
I won fighting for democracy.

Remember the day when I stood stiff and proud,
Marched with a band
To the cheers of the crowd.
The glitter of arms as they flashed in the sun,
The shine and the polish
On bayonet and gun.

The tramping of feet
As we marched off to war.
What have we gained by it?
What was it for?

But I remember the horrible filth and the stenches,
My comrades whose bodies
Lay dead in the trenches.

The rattle of guns
By night and by day,
The screaming of wounded being carried away.
The terrible sounds as men fought for their breath,
In that great choking cloud
That brought only death.

Some have come back,
Not all of us whole.
Some live in agony,
Some on the dole.
And others like me,
Who stand in the street,
Matches in hand,
No boots to our feet.

Did we give of our lives, our youth, our blood,
Endure the misery,
The terror, the mud,
Live every day through that festering hell,
Just to stand in the street,
With matches to sell?

As you pass by,
Just give this a thought.
This isn't the victory
For which we fought.

With the end of the fighting, our travail did not cease.
We won you the war. You lost us the peace.

GARDENING

Blowing in the wind

By Zena Robson

The old wind is getting up so it's time to assess any deciduous trees in your garden for susceptibility to gale damage. A good tree surgeon can thin out and either lift the crown or top a tree whilst keeping to the tree's natural shape. Don't be tempted to go for these guys who turn up on your door step uninvited and proceed to massacre trees and shrubs. Check tree ties as well; they should not be so tight that they cut into the bark. The best way to use them is as a stabiliser allowing the tree some movement in the wind in order to strengthen the trunk and root system. Trees on dwarf rooting stock generally need to be staked permanently as the root system is fairly weak. It's a good time to plant bare-rooted trees and hedges now as well.

Leaf love

Tidying up your garden is quite therapeutic on sunny but bracing days, but don't go mad! Some seed-heads look great with frost on them. Err on the side of the birds and leave the seed-heads on until the sog makes them unattractive and unproductive. Some of your expensive and treasured pots may need to be wrapped in bubble-wrap now to protect them from frost.

If you haven't already covered ponds with netting, you'll be learning a messy and smelly lesson for next year. You will need to get in there and scoop them out before they rot and give off toxic gases into the water. Other leaves will need to be raked up, especially from lawns but do try not to stomp over soggy grass as you will be compacting the soil. On borders, clear leaves from the middle of plants etc., as they will provide a haven for slugs; broad areas of borders can be left leaf-filled but tough evergreen leaves should be cleared as they take absolutely ages to break down.

It's also a good time to lift and split some herbaceous stuff, but leave grey leaved things like Achillea and grasses until the spring.

Tender Spot

By Diana Cormack

At the time of writing, no decision had been made between the remaining tenders for the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood. Only those which involved its use as a café were considered and the council is seeking further details for some of these.

Bob Penny of Barnet's Parks and Leisure department told me that there is no truth in the rumour linking the leasing of the pavilion and the setting up of a Waitrose store on the site of Park House. So concerned locals can breathe a sigh of relief.

Despite the council's café plans, many park users feel that an open shelter would be more acceptable. They say that people could sit under it in inclement weather and still enjoy the scenery; little ones could play in its shade in very hot weather, hopefully with no danger of treading in dog muck; and there would be no walls or doors for the graffiti merchants to express themselves on!

Pavilion Plan

The Archer was delighted to receive a detailed drawing from one of our readers indicating his personal plans for the development of the pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood.



Our thanks go to 17-year-old Jake Eiseman-Renyard of Fortis Green as well as our appreciation for the amount of effort he put into the presentation of his refurbishment plans.

We know that Barnet Council are only considering tenders for a café, so Jake's suggestion of an indoor tearoom is right on target. Study the key to see if you agree with his other ideas.

- 1 Roof (repaired). Also has added loft for storage space.
- 2 Supports painted to look like trees to suit park setting.
- 3 Stable-gate for information window.
- 4 Mural with grass, flowers, trees and blue sky.
- 5 Kids get to add their own figures to mural.
- 6 Serving hatch opens onto veranda with outdoor seating.
- 7 Indoor tearoom. Also there is a wildlife room, indoor toilets and changing rooms for sports teams.
- 8 Woods

LETTERS

Pavilion plans

Dear Sir

In your 100th issue you asked for suggestions for the pavilion in Cherry Tree Woods.

Firstly, let it NOT be the home of a food concession, which would result in even more litter in the wood! Besides, a café already exists nearby.

I think it should be transformed into a vandal-proof shelter for people who visit the wood in inclement weather, maybe with glass panels in the walls to bring light inside.

I would further suggest that the pavilion be LOCKED and keys sold at £5 each to local residents who may wish to use it.

Sincerely
Barbara Huggan
Lichfield Grove, N3

PS I greatly enjoyed the "celebration" walk around East Finchley on 23rd September and hope you'll have more of them!

Never intended

Dear Sir

There has been a lot written and said about the so-called pavilion in Cherry Tree Woods, but I would like to say it is not a pavilion and was never built as a pavilion. It was constructed as a sub power station for the old Finchley Urban District Council's generating power station in Squires Lane.

It was later degutted and

a transformer took over which is in an enclosure alongside.

This so-called pavilion is an eyesore covered in graffiti, a roof of broken tiles covered in pigeons' droppings and smells like a urinal.

It wants demolishing and the site used for planting new trees and shrubs and maybe a little fountain like the one that used to be on the main path.

Yours sincerely

L E Bruton

Cherry Tree Road, N2

PS The actual pavilion is at the tennis courts.

Recipe for disaster

Dear Sir

Re: Ripe for Development, September 2001

I should like to congratulate Diana Cormack for her fact-finding letter on the above "Recipe for Disaster"

It comes as no shock to us that such philistine treatment of a rare bit of ancient woodland (i.e. East Finchley end of Cherry Tree Wood) should even be suggested. DON'T DO IT.

Pull down the derelict pavilion, plant a memorial oak tree in its place and use the bricks to renovate and extend the kiosk cafe.

D.Cooper

(Member of Friends of Cherry Tree Wood)
(address supplied)

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