



LETTERS

No relief?

Dear Sir,

A few weeks ago, in the middle of the evening, I was walking back to my car in the station car park. Just ahead of me was a smartly dressed man with a briefcase. He went over to the angle of two walls, just in front of Stokes Court, where he discreetly relieved himself, before driving away.

This man could have been an anti-social slob, or he could have been genuinely desperate. Though if it was desperation, he could have taken a shorter walk into one of the neighbouring pubs.

Late at night, or if he had been under-age, there wouldn't even have been that choice, and if he had been a woman his situation would have been even more difficult.

When are we going to get a public toilet at the station?

Eveline Nicholas,
High Road, N2

Paving Paradise

Dear Editor

Another front garden in my street is disappearing to be replaced by a run-in for a car. This is happening in spite of the fact that the local residents' parking scheme guarantees parking for local residents at very modest yearly rates.

No consultation took place with neighbours, as planning permission is apparently not needed, in spite of the drastic and unwelcome change to the local environment. A run-in unilaterally reduces the amount of residents' parking available for others who live in the street. This practice is already prohibited in Hampstead Garden Suburb and the Fortis Green conservation area but other parts of the borough seem to have no legal protection.

I would like to appeal to anyone who may be thinking of doing this to reconsider. Residents' parking is cheap - run-ins are expensive. Gardens can be beautiful - run-ins cannot. A front garden may be private property but it has a public aspect. Destroying a single front garden spoils the appearance of an entire street.

I would also appeal to Barnet Council to use what powers it has not only to discourage this practice but also to encourage and assist residents who wish to return lost gardens to their former condition. Otherwise the street I am living in may have to be renamed Summerlee Car-parks as the gardens will have disappeared.

Yours sincerely
Guy Redmond
Summerlee Gardens, N2

Pigeon Square

Dear Sirs,

In reply to your article in the April edition entitled, 'Pigeon Corner Makeover', I have several questions; the first being why is it called East Finchley Town Square? East Finchley has only recently been called a village and the area being discussed is not a square.

And where does the £35,000 come from? Why is there more sponsorship required? Who decided that this development is required?

What East Finchley needs is a public toilet, not more plants that will not be maintained; the ones that are there now are a public disgrace. When will East Finchley have the dubious benefit of these Town Keepers? I appreciate that THE ARCHER may not have the answers but is it possible to put the questions to LA 21?

Helen Day,
Park Road, N2

An apology

Dear Editor

This letter is in response to my complaint to LT re the closure of the waiting rooms at East Finchley station.

Dear Mr Holmes

Thank you for your letter dated 10 March 2002 about the problem that you had experienced at East Finchley station.

I must apologise for the inconvenience that the locking of these waiting rooms has caused you. However, the reason for them being closed is due to vandalism. I have been informed by the Station Supervisor that the waiting rooms are actually opened to customers from the start of traffic until approximately 3pm daily. Unfortunately, I am sorry that the company has taken this level of action, but it is absolutely necessary for the health and safety aspect of customers.

I would like to thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and once again would like to apologise on behalf of London Underground Limited for any inconvenience you may have experienced.

Yours sincerely
Nigel Cassee (Northern Line)
(Submitted by Mr R Holmes
Twynford Avenue N2)

Virtuous circle

Dear Archer

In response to your request in the latest issue for views on East Finchley's bus service provision, I think there are two obviously useful routes that we don't have at the moment - into central London and a route linking East Finchley to Hampstead and to Crouch End via Muswell Hill - trying to go in either direction at the moment can mean a journey of 45 minutes with changes between bus routes, far longer than it must take by car.

Given the urgency of reducing traffic congestion and pollution in London, perhaps it is time to start a virtuous circle by providing a good alternative via new routes, leading to reduced car use and thereby to increasingly reliable bus services that more people are willing to use.

Yours sincerely
Sophie Leighton,
Park Hall Road, N2

Local Planning Applications

11 Fortis Green - for change of use from a ground floor shop to part ground floor shop, part residential, plus use of an existing detached garage as a games room.

57 Church Lane - retention of use of property from D1 Doctor's Surgery to C3 residential unit.

16 Leicester Road - details of materials, boundary treatment, hard surfacing and planting pursuant to conditions 02 and 03 of planning application C13936A dated 3 November 2001 for erection of a semi-detached house and two parking places.

Viceroy Close - erection of one four-storey block of 12 flats, 2 semidetached houses, barrier controlled parking provision for 22 cars with access from East End Road.

Send your correspondence to:
"Letters Page", The Archer
PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA

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.



A Smashing time

By Theresa Greenwood

Cherry Tree Wood has become a target for gangs of youths who are totally beyond the control of either their parents or the authorities.

This winter they smashed up four benches. Each time the benches were repaired, they returned to smash them up again until Barnet finally removed them. The verandah on the tennis pavilion has been smashed up seven times in the past few months! Buildings, paths and even trees have been daubed with spray paint, fires have been lit, and bottles smashed across the little children's playground and on the tennis courts almost every night. There are plenty of bins, but every morning Cherry Tree Wood is a sea of litter and rotting food.

Fear

Apparently the Wood is now ranked at No.2 in the league of 'vandalism in open spaces' by Barnet! It has become a regular playground for vandals and even drug-dealers. It has reached the point where many local residents are now afraid to visit the Wood in the evenings. Those people who describe Cherry Tree Wood as a 'precious local amenity which has to be preserved and protected' are very much deluded. It is well on its way to being destroyed by a selfish and mindless minority.

Wait and see

The Archer received a phone call from Mr Evans of Prospect Place, who was a bus driver for thirty years. He believes that the poor service on the 263 route could be improved if inspectors were put in place at High Barnet, East Finchley and Archway.

Recently he waited in North Finchley for over one and a half hours for a 263 to bring him home. Is this a record?

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GARDENING

April is the cruellest month

By Zena Robson

Taking my early evening walk the other day I came across two ladies standing, transfixed, looking at something on the other side of the road. I asked what was going on. 'Look!' they said as one, 'it's a Wisteria - it's flowering!' and indeed it was; admittedly on a sheltered sunny wall, but flowering nevertheless. 'It's early; I hope we don't have a frost,' quoth I as we discussed what on earth was going on. Evidently, everything is three weeks ahead but don't let that lull you into believing that summer is here! I'm hanging on! Heart-breaking past experiences in my younger gardening days have taught me a lesson in patience.

Now to work - the weeds have been going berserk and if you have got some real nasties like ground elder, bindweed and sorrels then you'll probably have to resort to a weedkiller in the end. Choose a glyphosate based one as it is inactivated on contact with the soil. If the weeds are in amongst your precious things then you'll need to be careful and paint the solution onto as many leaves as you can before boredom and backache set in. Alternatively, use a sprayer but take care that nothing drifts onto plants. Choose a still, sunny day and get out there before it's too late!

Support your plants

Herbaceous plants will be putting on big spurts of growth and if you noticed last year that some taller ones were flopping, push in stakes - either canes with string crisscrossed between them, or the metal ones that you can raise up as the plant gets taller. Do this before the plant really gets going as otherwise you end up having a fight with the thing. Some good doers that don't need a lot of fuss are *Heleniums*, hardy *Geraniums*, *Crocasmia*, *Asters* - traditional, but they will make a wonderful display through the season.

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