



Letters to the editor

Does tower block need another storey?

Dear Editor,

Not all your readers will be aware of a battle that's been going on for well over a year to stop a proposal to build another storey on top of Chessing Court in Fortis Green. Chessing Court, which sits on the corner of Fortis Green and Twyford Avenue, is already the tallest building in the area, dwarfing neighbouring houses and sporting an alarming array of radio masts on its roof.

The proposal is to add a new sixth floor, comprising two one-bedroom flats, making the block even more out of keeping with its surroundings. It is on the very edge of the Fortis Green conservation area and therefore, while not being within the zone itself, tends to dominate it.

Apart from the additional height of the block, there is no mention in the planning application about what will happen to the plethora of communications antennae it supports. Presumably these, too, will be raised a few metres, making them even more of an eyesore and re-igniting the debate around the possible health risks associated with such equipment.

Details of the proposal, plus objections to it, are to be found on Haringey's website (Planning Application reference HGY/2009/1982) and written objections may be sent (three copies) to: The Planning Inspectorate, 3/01 Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. The deadline for their receipt by the Inspectorate is 10 August.

I would urge all ARCHER readers who care about the East Finchley built environment, whether or not they may be directly affected, to support the campaign to stop this unwanted and unnecessary development, by writing to the above address and quoting Appeal Reference APP/Y5420/A/10/2129996/NWF. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
Charles Mattison,
Fortis Green, N2.

Turn, turn, turn

Dear Editor,

Your correspondent John Dearing in the June issue suggests that the solution to the problems of

the junction at the High Road and Fortis Green is to ban all turns. I am one of the many who, as he says, "lack the wit to understand how this would work."

Indeed, I wonder if he is being serious. In the past I have enjoyed his contributions of photographs to THE ARCHER such as the historic Fuel Lands Allotments, where there appear to be no problems of traffic. Times have however changed, and there is the need for traffic from the High Street to get to Muswell Hill.

If it does not do so using the main road, it will use the side roads, namely Woodside Avenue, which is already blocked morning and evening, or the county roads, which would not welcome the additions of an even larger volume of traffic than exists today. I would hazard a guess that Mr Dearing does not live in or near to these roads.

A solution which may help is being considered by Barnet, namely the introduction of a right filter allowing traffic more time to

turn right from the High Road into Fortis Green. At present, only a few cars or a single bus can make the turn in the time allowed. I hope that Mr Dearing does not lack the wit to allow this solution a chance to improve the situation.

Yours faithfully
Barry H White
Fordington Road, N6

Make N2 green and beautiful

Dear Editor,

We're a small but enthusiastic group of East Finchley residents who love gardening and want to brighten up any unloved patches of land with plants. We formed in late 2009 and, so far, we've been working on areas near the tube station, as featured in THE ARCHER, and the flower-beds outside Budgens. If anyone would like to help, email us at n2gardeners@gmail.com or visit our blog page at http://n2gardeners.blogspot.com/ to find out more about what we're doing.

Yours faithfully,
Gwenda Hughes,
On behalf of N2 Gardeners

Service with a smile

Dear Editor,

It was a pleasant experience to visit Mahnaz, dressmaker and alterations shop in East End Road, and enquire if she could machine a broken strap on a rucksack. Before I had barely finished speaking, she had kindly taken the item from me and securely machined it within a minute. In addition to the efficient "service with a smile", there was no charge for this minor repair.

Yours faithfully,
B Blatman,
Address supplied.

Flooding in

Stanley Fields lane

Dear Editor,

A little information about usage of the lane alongside Stanley Fields between Homefield Gardens and Ash Close. The company that rent the site beside the school have arranged their security fence to ensure that water can leave their site and flood the lane in periods of heavy rain. Three times I have been round to the site, spoken to the only person there (a young man), and taken him around to point out where the problem is coming from and requesting that something be done about it.

That section of the lane floods totally in periods of heavy rain due to the run off from the site. Many people use the lane including a large contingent of elderly people who would be using canes or mobile scooters. The young man promised on each occasion to inform management. I did this twice last year, and once after Christmas after a period of heavy rain. The water gathers in a slight decline right at the entrance to Stanley Fields. Giving up on the company, I then approached one of our local councillors at the Saturday surgeries. I was assured that something would be done. Two weeks later I received a phone call to advise me that he would wait for rain and take photographs. That was in March. After not hearing anything for months, and after some rainfall, I again went to the Saturday surgery and spoke to another councillor. He assured me he would pass the

message on and I would definitely be contacted.

To date, I have not had any contact from either Councillor that I have spoken to, and I am concerned that the problem will still be there when winter arrives. It is now five months since I have attempted to have this problem rectified.

Yours faithfully,
Carol Haybarger,
Homefield Gardens, N2.
Response from Councillor
Andrew McNeil:

After Ms Haybarger came to see me in surgery I promised to photograph the lane to demonstrate the problem, but it just hasn't rained sufficiently to replicate the conditions the lady complains of and I was reluctant to send anything to the council when the problem was not apparent and obvious. Councillor Colin Rogers saw the lady again in May or June, and we discussed it and agreed to keep a watching brief on the problem.

Is this wood work wise?

Dear Editor,

Reading about volunteers clearing brambles in Cherry Tree Wood to allow trees to grow (The Archer, July 2010) made me wonder whether their efforts were properly thought out. As I understand it, forests develop in cycles. First comes the undergrowth, then softwood trees and bushes followed by hardwood trees and associated undergrowth. Fire will follow before the cycle starts again.

Given that nature has been very successful at evolving life on this planet I doubt whether doing something nature is unlikely to do is a good idea. If we must interfere with natural processes then maybe setting aside areas from interference by man and dogs would do more good.

Yours faithfully,
John Silvertown,
Trinity Road, N2.



Ed Kerry is offering fitness training.

Fitness first for Ed

By Catherine Levi

Ed Kerry served in the RAF for nine years and for all that time nursed an ambition to become a personal trainer. At the end of his commission this spring, he decided it was the right time to put down some roots in civilian life and make his dream come true.

Ed has set up his own company based in East Finchley and is offering personalised fitness sessions in local parks or wherever his customers request. While in the military he was constantly helping others to keep fit and healthy, a major requirement of their job. He says: "Now I'm working with people who want my skills for all sorts of reasons."

Working out in the wood

A few weeks ago Ed gave me my own training session in Cherry Tree Wood. He also uses other parks and running tracks and is willing to travel to a client's local park for convenience. One immediate benefit of training outside is that it's very relaxing running on the grass in natural light and, as Ed pointed out, you are less likely to bump into someone you know every few minutes, as you might in the gym.

The session, clearly influenced by his RAF experience,

consisted of circuit training, with activities such as press-ups, stomach crunches and squats. There was plenty of variety, changing between different exercises, but I didn't stop moving between them, so by the end of the session I had really pushed myself.

Ed specialises in personal training, running sessions, dietary plans, fitness testing and event programmes, so he can help those wishing to lose weight, get fit for a particular event, or just to maintain a healthy lifestyle. His prices vary by location but he offers the first session free if you book a further 12 sessions. You can contact him via email at edkerrypt@hotmail.co.uk, telephone 07810 868221, or visit his website, www.edkerrypt.co.uk.

Fete accomplished

On 26 July, in glorious weather, Clementine Forfar opened her garden in Fortis Green Avenue to neighbours and passers-by for a fundraising mini-fete.

The event was to raise money for new theatre company Drop Stitch, run by Clementine, Melanie Spencer and Karen Quigley, to take a production of Joe Penhall's award-winning play *Blue/Orange* to the British Science Festival in Birmingham this September. The trio, who are trying to demystify the issues and stigmas surrounding mental health issues, are backed by renowned charity Mind, to which some of the proceeds will be donated.

Clementine's house had been decorated like a fete, with the living room shelves lined with tombola prizes donated by Muswell Hill shops, and an entire wall displaying an impressive array of Silent Auction items ranging from tickets to London Fashion Week 2011 to a bespoke suit.

In the garden people could chat, eat delicious home-cooked food, and browse through books, bric-a-brac and rails of clothes. Drinks and food were

donated by The Clissold Arms. There were respectable takings at the end of the day. If you want to find out more, or would like to help the company make it to Birmingham, email dropstitchcollective@googlemail.com

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