



Letters to the Editor

First World War memorials

Dear Editor,

With the approach of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War there is bound to be renewed interest in the names recorded on our local war memorials. At Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane we have what we thought was a fairly comprehensive list of all those men who died "for King and Country" between 1914 and 1918. However, having compared the war memorial in the church with the one in the school, we find that nine names are listed on both, leaving a further fourteen not included on the church memorial.

We also wonder whether there are other memorials in East Finchley listing additional names. We have 186 listed at Holy Trinity Church and a further 14 at the school, making a round total of 200. Was this the total sacrifice of East Finchley in World War I? We think it was probably worse than that.

I should be very interested to know where else names are listed and would like to make a record of them for passing on to the national archive. I can be contacted on joda@fsmail.net or on 020 8883 4154.

The lists include what might be regarded as East Finchley names and I would especially like to hear from descendants of these, assuming they are still in the locality, for example: Bedwell, Belcher, Bowman, Cattle, Cole, Copping, Hopkins, Kirkham, Lamb, Partridge, Pidgeon, Sears, Southam, Surrey, Tomkins, Webb, Whitebread. I shall of course be happy to show people the complete lists if they contact me.

**Yours faithfully,
Churchwarden,
Holy Trinity Church,
Church Lane, N2**

A Halloween treat

Dear Editor,

A couple of days before All Saints' Day, through the letter box of a house near to where Deansway joins East End Road, a notice came saying that if anyone living there did not want to participate in the 'Trick or Treat' activities of Halloween, no lights were to be visible inside the front of the house, between 5.30 and 7.30pm.

The instruction was strictly obeyed, so astonishment was expressed the following morning when it was found that the hinge of the front gate, which had been insecure for several weeks, had been replaced.

Immense gratitude must be expressed to those who organised the event in such a way that the elderly could receive a treat without risking a trick. That was very kind. Thank you!

**Yours faithfully,
An appreciative resident
(Name and address supplied)**

**Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page",
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Letters without verifiable contact
addresses will not be reviewed
or printed. Contact details can be
withheld, however, on request at
publication.**

Don't spoil East Finchley

Dear Editor,

As I am at present housebound, due to a bad fall injuring my pelvis, I cannot walk or go to meetings. Neither do I have access to the internet. But I do care about the future of East Finchley (especially Cherry Tree Wood, which should be kept sacrosanct and not built on).

East Finchley is a very different place from the backwater it was when I moved here more than 25 years ago, from Belsize Park. It has developed into a very nice place to live in (apart from the hazards and noise of too many motorbikes).

I think there should be no more houses built in East Finchley, as there has already been an increase in the houses and population over the last 25 years.

There is a good selection of local shops, just about right. The recently opened Waitrose in Muswell Hill and the frequent bus services there mean that we do not need or want any more supermarkets. We have Budgens and Iceland, and – even better – the excellent fruit and vegetables provided by Tony's Continental in the High Road.

The shops in East End Road should be encouraged to remain individual traders, and the Post Office there should be re-opened. The Council should not increase the rates so that the traders have to close. East Finchley is now just right as it is. Don't spoil it!

**Yours faithfully,
Margo Mattinson,
Fortis Green, N2.**

Thank you... whoever you are

Dear Editor,

This is to thank the anonymous person who put a blue envelope through my door with the handwritten thought "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted" with a £10 note. At first I was very puzzled and couldn't fathom it, until I spotted what was a website www.givemondays.com.

I discovered an anonymous community of givers who perform random acts of kindness - on Mondays! At present the suggestion is to give £10 but in the future the hope is to develop more community projects. I have lived in East Finchley for many years and it was a lovely reminder of what a great community we have and all the projects that already exist. Thank you. Much appreciated.

**Yours faithfully,
Jane Townsend,
Huntingdon Road, N2.**

Allotments

at the ready

Allotment holders in East Finchley will shortly be getting their plots ready for the spring and the growing season ahead.

A reminder that Budgens in the High Road is one of the stockists of Your Allotment magazine, which is written for the allotment community across north London.

War memorial saved... but where next?

By Bruce Boyd

At a Barnet Council planning committee on 5 December, the proposal for the demolition and redevelopment of the ex-Royal British Legion building in Brackenbury Road was approved (Soapbox, THE ARCHER, December 2012).

However, strict conditions were placed on the developer with regard to the old Manor Park Mission Great War memorial plaque contained within the building. In short, apart from making a suitable record of the plaque, the developers must come up with a plan for its safe removal and suitable relocation elsewhere within the local area.

This plan has to be approved by Barnet Planning and the relocation take place before redevelopment work can start on the old Manor Park Hall. Assuming that the plaque can be safely removed, the question remains about where it should go?

Most fitting

One suggestion was the garden of the Finchley Memorial Hospital in North Finchley but that is rather too far away from its original location and the plaque would be exposed to the elements.

The best suggestion would seem to be inside Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, N2. Apart from being the closest place of worship to its existing location, it already has existing memorials to the war dead of both world wars. Furthermore there are also the graves of world war service casualties in the adjacent churchyard. Surely, the most fitting place?

The parish team of Holy Trinity headed by Fr Gray

Featherstone certainly agree. They would welcome the relocation of the plaque to the church but ultimately the decision seems to be down to the planning service in consultation with the developers. It is not known if the Royal British Legion will have any say in the matter, although it could be

argued that they relinquished any rights to this when they left the memorial behind!

Do you have any views or ideas about this? If so, contact THE ARCHER and also East Finchley's councillors Arjun Mitra, Colin Rogers and Alison Moore, as well as Barnet Council's planning department.

From asylum to apartments

In 1851, one of north London's most striking buildings opened its doors for the first time. The Second Middlesex County Pauper Lunatic Asylum (later known as Colney Hatch Asylum, latterly Friern Hospital) was the largest asylum in Europe and at its peak housed over 2,600 patients. The term Colney Hatch became synonymous with mental illness.



The cover photograph from David Berguer's book

Chairman of the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society David Berguer has written a history of Friern Hospital which covers its design and building, its operation and the treatment of mental illness and, with the arrival of a new policy of "care in the community", its run-down, closure and subsequent conversion into luxury apartments, Princess Park Manor, and the creation of a retail park and 30 new roads.

The Friern Hospital Story: The History of a Victorian Lunatic Asylum runs to 180 pages and contains 140 photo-

graphs, illustrations and diagrams. The book is available direct from the publisher Chaville Press, 148 Friern Park, N12 9LU at £14.99 plus £3 postage and packing or from bookshops. ISBN 9 780956-934444.

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