



Letters to the Editor

Modern monstrosity

Dear Editor,

I imagine many other East Finchley residents were as shocked as I was when I saw, on the front page of *The Archer*, the poorly designed 'modern monstrosity' which is planned to be erected on the site occupied by GLH Car Hire, opposite East Finchley Station.

If this goes ahead it will most certainly destroy the character of this lovely suburb of north London. The planners haven't even had the forethought to take the building back from the High Road, but have pushed it to the furthest limits possible, so that it is 'right up in your face and totally out of place!' I beg the planners and those who gave permission to have a rethink.

Yours faithfully,
Jeanette Levin,
Address supplied.

Water source?

Dear Editor,

Regarding Bugwoman's exploration of East Finchley's river the Mutton Brook (*The Archer*, March 2017), I live on Southern Road, N2, and notice that at the junction of Western Road and Southern Road (or possibly Eastern Road and Southern Road), there is always, no matter how dry the summer, the sound of running water, flowing towards Cherry Tree Wood.

Is it possible that this is the origin of the Mutton Brook? Or possibly, that it rises higher up, in the vicinity of Fortis Green? After all, the land drops from Fortis Green towards Cherry Tree Wood. The source might be higher still, as the land continues to rise, however slightly, towards Coldfall Wood.

Yours faithfully,
Brian Goldfarb,
Southern Road, N2.

Where the river rises

Dear Editor,

Interesting to read the article on Mutton Brook (*The Archer*, March 2017) but it actually rises on the western slopes of Highgate Wood and you can follow its little tributaries gathering behind one of the houses in Lanchester Road.

There is a ditch that takes it underground and through Fordham

Road (originally a ford) to Cherry Tree Wood. One can track it along the route by the manholes.

I was fascinated by the article, having grown up playing along Mutton Brook, and last year photographed it along the route from the Highgate source and spoke to people in Lanchester Road and Vivien Way who had it meandering through their gardens.

There is also a big Thames Water reservoir along Woodside Avenue. Rainwater that falls down from Fortis Green towards the reservoir feeds into Mutton Brook and on to the Brent and the Thames, and the other side towards Coldfall eventually leads into the River Lee.

Yours faithfully,
Michelle Huberman
Address supplied.

Who will protect our trees?

Dear Editor,

What is the point of Town & Country planning legislation these days, when the aesthetic and architectural aspects are ignored leading to despoiling of the built environment?

So far as the living environment is concerned, planners have no obligation to preserve established trees, except in conservation areas. All other trees are at the mercy of developers and landowners.

I applied in July 2005 for a Tree Protection Order (TPO) for a mature cherry tree (which may well have originated the naming of Cherry Tree Wood in 1915) receiving confirmation it would be considered by Barnet Council.

In February 2006, I received notice through a supportive councillor that there was "no extant landscaping condition" relevant to that site. Consequently the tree was felled early in 2006 before submission of a Town & Country planning application was made.

A similar situation is evolving again but this time, a planning application already made and granted whilst the tree in question remains; although the applicant did not acknowledge when applying that any tree existed on the site.

No doubt my present application for a TPO will either meet with no further response, the

council saying it cannot consider this aspect under the legislation, or a cursory conclusion due to 'pressure of work' coping with an overload of conservation area TPO's. Some of these are for the felling of dead trees and permission to grub out sycamore saplings on allotments. Reader I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Yours faithfully,
Peter E. Goodall
Dixey Cottages, N2.

Denial avowal

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read the review of the film *Denial* by Neil McNaughton (*The Archer*, March 2017) and his reference to "Irving's apparent lies in relation to the Holocaust". In view of what we know and the court's total condemnation of David Irving I feel a retraction by your reviewer is required. Is there no editing at your office?

Yours faithfully,
David Teacher,
By email.

The Editor replies: The sentence was intended to convey that the lies were apparent, meaning obvious, at the time of the trial, which is what the film was all about. Apologies if the phrasing left any other meaning to be inferred.

N₂H₂O is hard to swallow

We have to come clean and admit that our story on page 5 about a potentially lucrative water bottling business springing up in a back garden near Cherry Tree Wood was our, admittedly very late, April Fool.

There really is a couple who find that water permanently bubbles up in the furthest reaches of their garden near the park but only in quantities to keep the local cats safe from thirst and certainly not enough to have us all drinking it at our dinner tables. Not yet, anyway!



All Saints churchwarden Alan Toms (right) presents a cheque to Geoffrey Hanson. Photo Mike Coles

A bit of a do in honour of Geoffrey

We reported last October that Geoffrey Hanson was retiring from his role as Director of Music at All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, after just short of 30 years. In February, the congregation celebrated his contribution to the musical life of the parish with a 'do'.

As well as members of the present congregation, old friends and former choir members were there to raise a glass in appreciation.

Our music reviewer Ken Carter said Geoffrey had been a benign and creative presence, responsible for fostering the senior and junior choirs and demonstrating the splendour of the church organ, rescued from ignominy in south London.

Teacher and composer

Geoffrey had been a church organist since his late teens and was a member of the staff of Trinity College of Music

until his retirement. When he came to All Saints' in 1987, he began the job of building choir membership from low numbers.

Geoffrey is also a prolific composer and, during his time at All Saints', composed a number of mass settings, anthems and other liturgical music for the choir.

Parish administrator Sue Windridge said: "It goes without saying that Geoffrey will be greatly missed by the people of All Saints' although he will certainly not be a stranger to the church as he will continue in his role as Director of the East Finchley Arts Festival."

A yeasty treat for Easter

Easter baking is a special event, and some cultures have a richer, decorated Easter bread; in Ukraine, it's called Paska. If you're into home baking, why not give it a try? The ingredients can all be bought in our local shops.

Ukrainian Easter Paska

(makes 2 loaves if using deep, round 9" tins)

Ingredients

- 100g sugar
- 120ml lukewarm water
- ½ package dry yeast
- 360ml milk, scalded (almost boiled) but lukewarm
- 900g plain flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 75g butter, melted
- ½ tablespoon salt



Dissolve half a teaspoon of the sugar in the water and sprinkle the yeast over it. Add the milk and a third of the flour, beat until smooth, cover and leave until bubbly. Then add the eggs, butter, salt and the rest of the sugar; mix thoroughly and stir in the rest of the flour. Knead until smooth and satiny. Then place in a bowl and let rise until doubled in bulk; when it has, remove a third and punch down the rest, knead it and put it in the (greased) baking tin to rise again.

The removed third is used for the decoration. You can roll it into long lengths and braid it to make a cross for your loaves, although with practice and experience people can make decorative swirls or rosettes. The decorations are added to the bread before the final rising.

When doubled in bulk, brush with a beaten egg and bake in the oven at 200°C for 15 minutes, then at 150°C for 40 minutes.

(Recipe adapted with thanks from Traditional Ukrainian Cookery by Savella Stechishin).

HELP WITH MONEY

@Barnet Lone Parent Centre

- Service available to everyone
- Help with PIP and ESA applications
- Benefits check
- Benefit overpayments and challenges
- Sensible debt repayment plan
- Eviction and housing help
- Free Holidays and respite breaks
- Free second hand furniture
- Food Bank referrals



Don't go it alone
Pick up the phone

At Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale, East Finchley, London, N2 9BA

Tel: 020 3828 4834

Email: Nina.Gentry@peabody.org.uk

Web: loneparents.btck.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority