



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

East End Road Bridge

Dear Editor

I am anxious to support your correspondents who are advocating the widening of the bridge over the railway line in East End Road.

The present situation is very dangerous, the footpath is not wide enough for two people to pass without one of them having to step out into the road.

The volume of traffic using that road now is so great that there are not many minutes in the day when it is safe to do this. The situation is worse, of course, if anyone is wheeling a buggy.

Barnet Council should try to find a way of making this stretch of roadway safe, even if it means widening the bridge itself. To narrow the carriageway would not be a satisfactory answer, since the traffic flow is so continuous now at this point.

Something needs to be done before a serious accident happens at this danger spot.

Yours sincerely
Rev. Dr Ronald W. Frost
East End Road, N2.

Just a genius

Dear Editor,

With reference to the road bridge over the tube lines at the Deansway end of East End Road, (how's that for a long sentence?!!) I've had an idea for how to make it completely safe for pedestrians - the only thing is, it's so simple, I'm sure someone's thought of it. Anyway, here's the idea:

It would be very easy to manufacture a covered steel pedestrian walkway and attach it to the OUTSIDE of the bridge on both sides. There already is enough space at each end of the bridge for people to pass without encroaching onto residents' property. This would mean that the roadway could actually be widened!! Now there's a novelty.

I'd love to know whether anyone else has thought of this or if I'm just a genius.

Kind regards,
Rob Arenstein.
East End Road, N2.

Pence and pennies

Dear Editor

I enjoyed the compilation "How I wish..." by David Hobbs. It reflects much of the things I wish for, tapas bars excluded.

The rounding-down of prices is an interesting subject. There is an old, commercially sound reason. A banknote/coin may not always see the inside of the till. Through the rounding down of the price by as little as one pence, the customer unwittingly becomes the watchdog. By waiting to receive change he/she sees the till being opened and the tender put in, where it belongs. The till should then be closed and the change handed over.

Incidentally, I am as happy to accept pence as I am to accept pennies. Tuppence is two pennies, as shown in my old Thorndike dictionary (first printed 1948) and I have no quarrel with either.

Yours faithfully
Anne Gille
Market Place, N2

Baronsmere Saga

Dear Editor

I am not one to generally get involved in petty local politics, but the Baronsmere Road scheme astounds me. It is all very well making a pollution/accident-free area, but believe it or not people also live on Fortis Green and the High Road. Maybe if these residents had enough time on their hands they could bully the council to ensure their roads were private driveways too! How would Baronsmere Road residents get home then? Not via my road.

Traffic, until a viable alternative is found, is part and parcel of living in London. The more dispersed it is, the sooner it will leave our area, thereby benefiting all residents.

East Finchley resident

Were you on that W7?

Dear Readers

Were you on that W7? Unfortunately at about 11:50 on Thursday 25 November I was.

Someone had left a bottle on the platform by the exit door. As I was leaving the bus I trod on the bottle became airborne, banged my knee into the side of the bus and landed in a shower of broken glass.

A man getting on the bus came over to inquire if I was all right. At the time I thought I had just bruised my knee so I said I was OK, got up and limped away. Subsequently my knee swelled up and I went to the doctor. Then followed four miserable and painful days and nights spent in bed.

The bus mentioned was travelling towards Finsbury Park, and the accident occurred at the Park Road stop near the hospital.

I claimed compensation from the bus company, filled in numerous forms, and their solicitors have taken all this time to decide that the case can proceed no further without eyewitnesses.

Apparently the bus driver noticed nothing, he didn't hear the cries of alarm from the passengers as I fell, he didn't hear the bottle breaking on the pavement or my knee hitting the side of the bus. Nor did he notice that someone about to get on the bus suddenly went away to return five or six seconds later. He apparently did not think this strange, did not look in the mirror to see what was happening and didn't drive off when the person about to board the bus apparently changed his mind.

So if you remember seeing the incident I should be very grateful if you would get in touch with me through *THE ARCHER*.

Thanks
Frank Gordon
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Please send your letters to: The Archer,
PO Box 3699,
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or e-mail: The-Archer@England.com

GARDENING

By Paul Savill

Fancy a flutter this summer?

Want butterflies in your garden this summer? Now is the time to begin making a haven for them. Paul Savill's know-everything neighbour tells you how.

"A garden without butterflies is like a cake without icing or a kiss without a cuddle - it's only half the pleasure."

So said my neighbour in Lauradale Road, giving me a large wink. He was lecturing me again. His mixed similes were his way of telling me that my garden is simply not good enough to attract butterflies.

This is a shame because I want butterflies in my garden - flowerbeds are brought alive by their fluttering colours.

What a site!

My neighbour's large south-facing garden overlooking the reservoir is a haven for butterflies.

"You don't need a large and beautiful garden like mine to bring them in," he said, looking pleased with himself.

"Most East Finchley gardens are quite big enough even..." he added slowly giving me a wistful look, "your small patch in Fortis Green Avenue."

What you have to do is make the most of small, sunny sheltered spots by growing a few decent sized clumps of popular butterfly plants. These have nectar-rich flowers where they can stop for a drink.

Most of us know the buddleia shrub, or butterfly bush as it is often called, with its lilac flowers.

But all sorts of bedding plants, such as aubretia, alysum, candytuft, phlox, nicotiana, sweet williams and marigolds will ensure butterfly visits throughout the summer.

And butterflies love lavender, marjoram and thyme.

Grasping the nettle

What many of us do not know is that butterflies usually lay their eggs on different types of plant from those they use for nectar - on plants that tend to be those we dislike, like nettles, thistles and coarse grasses.

My neighbour believes that every garden in East Finchley should give a small space - say 10 square feet - to such plants to provide a nursery for butterflies to raise their young.

"If we want butterflies in the district, we must provide the nettles as well as the nectar," he stated resolutely. "After all, it's like a horse and carriage: you can't have one without the other."

My neighbour's heart is definitely in the right place, but his similes are somewhere else...

Note: THE ARCHER needs a new writer for the gardening column. If any reader can contribute, please contact the editor.

Late song for the Millennium

(To be sung with gusto)

Millennium, millennium
If there's only one you spell it with an UM!

Millennium, millennium
If there are more than one you spell it with an EAR!

(Cup hand behind left ear and shout)
Millennia, millennia
Hurrah! Hurrah!

© Martin Earl (aged 46 ^{3/4})
with help from Pooh Bear and Piglet (who said he thought it was a very good song).

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Church News

By Len Willcocks



Sister Avis

A celebratory Mass took place on Friday 4 February at St Mary's RC Church to honour Sister Avis, a nun belonging to the La Sagesse order who have a house in Church Lane, East Finchley.

Sister Avis, who is now Parish Sister at St Mary's, was teaching in the missions in Malawi for 20 years.

A buffet party, attended by parishioners and former priests of St Mary's, followed the Mass.

Plaque attack

A plaque commemorating the millennium, which was fixed to a notice board outside the Methodist church, was taken - but why and by whom? That is the question being asked by puzzled parishioners.

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