



LETTERS

The advantage of shopping locally

Dear Editor

After purchasing several three amp. fuses in quick succession Chivers Bros. asked me what the problem was that required such frequent fuse changes. Upon explaining the predicament and already worried that I was going to have to spend considerably more than a few pence replacing the item rather than the fuse, I was advised to try a five amp. fuse, this being the more correct ampage for the appliance in question.

What customer care! Would a multi-store outlet have remembered my purchasing pattern, let alone bothered to ask me about it? Yet how often do we desert our local shops in favour of the bigger, supposedly cheaper, new retail parks?

Thanks Chivers Bros.; long may you continue to keep the customer satisfied.

Yours faithfully

Paul Thompson
Huntingdon Road, N2.

Constitutional Thanks

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the members of the Constitutional Club for their generous Christmas donation of £210, to the North London Hospice. It is so nice that the local people support their local charity.

Yours Sincerely

Eugenia G. von Piccardio
Cherry Tree Hill, N2.

Peace at last

Dear Editor

I have always enjoyed your monthly news, so would like to thank you and your staff. But after reading the letters of some of your letter-writers I am most upset as you seem to be on the side of the complainers about the part closure of Baronsmere Road, especially that of Mr Cohen in your November issue.

It is clear that if he lived in Park Hall, Baronsmere or Summerlee Roads he would not make such trifling remarks as "two relatively short periods" of traffic. We have endured years of heavy and very fast traffic in our roads and, to us, it is heavenly to enjoy a more peaceful environment.

I agree that the traffic lights must be changed to give drivers more time to turn into Fortis Green. I have asked the council several times over the last five years, as it would have helped us immensely, even before the closure. But, of course, nothing was done about it, as now. I have written again and hope that something will be done and that you and your readers will support this issue.

I am also concerned about the behaviour of some drivers U-turning in the High Road, but that would cease if the lights were changed.

As for drivers exiting into the High Road via "No Entry", this is very dangerous but can only be stopped by police or camera, which is very unlikely to happen, or by complete closure of the road.

Yours sincerely

M Bregg
Park Hall Road, N2.

Positive benefits

Dear Archer

The partial closure of the Baronsmere Road/High Road junction has been a great success in improving the quality of life for all those living in the roads affected, including my own. The benefits are much reduced traffic, less noise and air pollution plus improved safety for pedestrians. Yes, it's inconvenient not being able to drive directly to and from the High Road, but the gains far outweigh this in my opinion.

The East Finchley CPZ should also bring positive benefits by ending the use of these roads as a car park for the tube station, at least for those roads off Fortis Green, where some commuter parking already takes place. If this happens, a Fortis Green CPZ may start to look more necessary than it does at present. I hope that Haringey's planned review of parking in the area will be carried out after the implementation of the East Finchley CPZ so that its effects will be clear.

Yours sincerely

David Hill
Eastern Road, N2.

Bloomin' dreadful

Dear Sirs

Please can we do something about the dreadful flower beds in the High Road outside Budgens? Every time I go shopping they seem to become more pathetic. Roses are lovely for four months of the year but we need cheering up throughout our shopping year.

A bit of greenery would be nice. The displays outside Christ College are now blooming and lush - take those pitiful blobs of earth and turn them into something to look at and enjoy please!

What about the stores? Can they not get together and enhance their customers' shopping experiences?

Yours sincerely

Abbot's Gardens resident

Airman**Identified**

We believe we have identified the Church End airman who was one of the plastic surgery "Guinea Pigs". Details in next month's issue.

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.

**Concrete Jungle**

By Helen Day

Stand up and fight for your rights! We, the so-called small people should be heard! Save East Finchley from the faceless money grabbing developers. Are you aware of the many proposed developments that are before Barnet Council at this present time?

I am seriously affected by two, one in Park Road another on the High Road (201) and I can name several others within the village. Are we going to let these out-of-the-area developers make money at our expense? These people do not care about the look of the property or the effect on the environment, after all they do not have to look at it or live beside it. They just make their profit and walk away. I would possibly not be so angry if the flats were in the price range of first-time buyers, but a three bedroom flat in this area will assuredly be out of their range.

Once East Finchley was a lovely quiet area to live in, but if the developers get their way it will just be a concrete jungle and the heart of the area will be destroyed.

Plans and profits

Do not rely on the council; they will just be grateful for the added council tax they receive.

I recently paid them a visit to look at the plans for the proposed development at 201 High Road. All I was met with was rudeness, arrogance and superiority - and why was I charged £5.75 for a copy of one of the plans? These plans should be available for all to see, maybe at East Finchley Library. Why are so few people officially notified of these proposals? The notices put on lampposts are no good to anyone: they get blown away and the printing is far too small to read especially at night when the majority return from work.

Commuter Crisis

Parking in East Finchley is a very serious problem and with all of these proposed developments not enough parking is provided.

East Finchley is already the most densely populated ward within Barnet, so we will all suffer as the facilities provided by the council will be stretched further. As we commuters already know the tube can not cope with those of us that already use East Finchley station.

So people of East Finchley, protest. Keep our village as it is; we do not, I repeat do not, need any further hideous blocks of flats.

Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot

By Bob Janes

So, January has been and gone and the Millennium has assuredly changed for everyone who cared when the "real" date was. And, for many of us our well-meant New Year Resolutions have vanished along with the Christmas Spirit as we find ourselves going to work in the cold dark mornings. If you are like me, one of those resolutions was to get back in touch with some of those people who you remembered over the holidays.

Maybe they sent you a card, or you sent them one with the well-intentioned "Let's meet up next year". Maybe there is a distant relative that you remember from times past. Maybe an old flame you've lost touch with. We all have these people like ghosts in our lives. They live in our memories as we last knew them, maybe many years ago. Not long ago I spoke to an old friend who I hadn't seen for maybe twenty years or more. His voice is unchanged and I struggled to reconcile my memory of him as a young man with my imagination of him looking like his father was back then.

How long does it take to speak to a ghost? Often forever - we just don't get around to it. After all, what would they say if we just called up out of the blue? They might be busy, or have moved, or perhaps they've died or emigrated. Sure, all these might be true but most often they aren't. If they are busy then the call can be brief can't it? If they've moved away all you have to do is to apologise to whoever answers the phone. In reality it's probably safer to call up someone like that than one of our current friends isn't it? Well maybe, maybe not. The reality is that when we just don't know, we often have that very human habit of imagining the worst. And isn't the worst enough to stop you doing anything!

How is it for you? Are there people in your life that you'd enjoy chatting to again? If one of them called how would you reply? OK, with one or two you might put the phone down, with most you'd enjoy a few minutes catching up, sharing your life (or at least the edited version) for a while, wouldn't you?

So, take a few minutes one evening when there is nothing on TV to catch your attention and make a call or two - you just don't know what might come from those auld acquaintances.

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