



Wide open spaces: Sedgemere Avenue free of cars for a short time last month. Photo Dominique Morley-Slinn.



Carts and prams: A peaceful Sedgemere lined with trees and front garden fences in 1916. Photo courtesy of Sonia Bruce.

A world without cars

By John Lawrence

Thank you to reader Dominique Morley-Slinn for her photo of Sedgemere Avenue taken when two days of resurfacing work returned it to how it would have looked in the 1950s. Normally lined with cars on both sides, it became a wide open road after every vehicle was moved away to nearby streets while the smart new surface was laid.

Dominique's photo reminded us of a picture we published seven years ago, which had been sent in by Gwen Nutting, then 86, who had lived in Sedgemere Avenue for 63 years. Gwen's photo showed a lone milkman plying his round there in 1954 with not another vehicle in sight. And we can travel even further back in time thanks to a postcard unearthed by reader Sonia Bruce. Her sepia-tinted image from 1916 shows Sedgemere

Avenue in the days when horse-drawn carts and babies' prams were the only wheeled vehicles to worry about.

Many of us couldn't live without our cars but it is nice to see the world without them just once in a while.

Do you have any photos of your road or street from years gone by that we could share with readers? Please email them to the-archer@lineone.net or send copies to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 9DE. Thank you.



Float on: A lone milkman plies his round in Sedgemere Avenue in 1954.

Irreplaceable stained-glass panels stolen from library

By Mick Crick, The Finchley Society

Anyone who visited the 'old' Church End Library in Hendon Lane, Finchley, N3, may have noticed three large stained-glass panels in the main part of the library on the ground floor.



Stolen: The missing panels, photographed when they were on display at Church End Library. Photo Theresa Musgrave.

They were the Coats of Arms from three families, Hastings, Frowicke and Nicholl, who have a long history in Finchley. At separate times, dating from as far back as 1216, they were the occupiers of Grass or Groats Farm, in the area of Hendon Avenue, between Dollis Avenue and the Dollis Valley Green-walk.

In 1956, the stained-glass panels were presented to Finchley Borough Council and

latterly were displayed in the library which opened in 1964. Unfortunately, the old library closed some time before the new library at Gateway House opened in October 2017.

For some reason the panels were left in the then derelict and abandoned building although space had been allocated for their display in the new library. Apparently nothing was done by Barnet Council until one of our members, Jenny Brown,

enquired why the new panels were not on display.

Only then was it revealed that the old library, having been left empty, had been subject to break-ins, vandalism and occupation by squatters, and that when the building was subsequently secured by contractors the panels had gone.

What has become of the panels is unknown. We can only assume they were stolen. The Finchley Society is now the guardian of the bottom panel which tells the story of how the stained glass came into the possession of Finchley Borough Council, but the irreplaceable Coats of Arms are no more.

I am indebted to Mark Lawrence for his work in trying to locate the panels and to Theresa Musgrave for supplying a photograph of them.

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Spooky walk

As Halloween approaches, a North London charity for disabled children and young people is hosting a spooky walk from Muswell Hill through Highgate 'Horror' Woods.

The my-AFK – Working With Disability charity is inviting families and individuals to take part in the fun day on Saturday 26 October, setting off from and returning to The Mossy Well pub at the top of Muswell Hill.

The walk sets off at 10am and finishes with fancy dress, crafts and games, plus lunch and drinks. Tickets for children cost £10, for adults £20 and a family ticket for up to five people £35. Find out more and sign up at my-afk.org/events.



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