

Letters to the Editor

48 Erskine Hill
London NW11 6HG

Sir,
As I stood and looked at the mess that is currently the Finchley Road at Temple Fortune (this letter is written in mid-March), I felt tears of frustration and anger come into my eyes.

The workmen had just finished ripping out yet another of the pedestrian refuges and the sight-line of the road was of a sea of traffic nose to tail going north to Henley's Corner and road-works on the southbound side.

I watched as young people ran dangerously across the road, while older people had to walk extra yards out of their way because the refuges were no longer there. Further down Temple Fortune, between the crossings near Oxfam and outside Boots, there is now

only one pedestrian refuge. In recent times, with cafes on both sides and the width of the road split by pedestrian refuges, the Finchley Road had become far less of a threat and the shopping environment much more pleasant. Looking at it yesterday, it was again just another trunk road, where the car was king and the pedestrian just a vulnerable speck of dust.

Garden Suburb Ward's councillors bear a very heavy responsibility for allowing this to happen, but the person who surely is most responsible for this 'improvement' scheme is Councillor Brian Coleman. He will be asking for our votes in the GLA elections on 10 June. I hope we will remember the Finchley Road and reward him accordingly.

Yours
Marjorie Harris

3 Maurice Walk
NW11 6JX
1 February

Sir,
I completely agree with Marc Sinden's letter in the winter edition of Suburb News.

With the advent of driver-only buses, narrowing the roadway with chicanes, etc. was a disaster resulting in traffic belching out fumes while waiting behind stationery buses! Far better to make adequate road

widths to be able to cope with the traffic and, together with traffic lights and zebra crossings, would make safe passage for pedestrians and smooth-running traffic along Temple Fortune.

Increased traffic is a fact of life - it won't go away. Far better to deal with the situation sensibly and improve the environment.

Yours
Edna Weiss

at my house during the last few months, and minor adjustments that are being done from time to time. Anyone who refurbished his home caused the same nuisance to his neighbours. This is acceptable and understandable.

Yours
S Gluck

did quite a lot and approached me on numerous occasions, even if the complaints were unjustified, to try and appease these complainers. The treatment has always been fair, fast and very efficient.

The truth is that: (1) The Trust has been effective in establishing the truth (although the result is not to Mr Address's liking), (2) The Trust has taken action, (3) The Trust cannot protect the neighbourhood because there is nothing to protect it from. The situation cannot be resolved because it is not a situation. It is the pure snobbery of people who do not want to live next door so someone who drives a van. There is always someone who does not like the van, car, profession, skin colour or religion of his neighbour - where does it end?

54 Middleway
NW11 6SG
10 February

Sir,
I am replying to the letter regarding myself published in your previous edition. This letter, in my opinion, is misleading and incorrect.

It is true that the van I drive (two years old, sparkling clean, Mercedes Benz which is valeted every fortnight) is parked outside my home. If any other vans, besides the one I drive, are parked outside my home, it is only when works are being carried out inside my house. There are vans parked occasionally throughout the

Suburb all of the time so why discriminate against me?

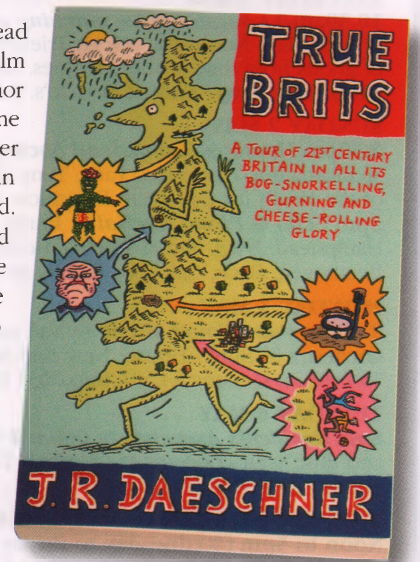
Although, according to Mr 'Name and Address Supplied', 15 neighbours complained about the nuisance, I still did not have, to this day, any indication of what nuisance they are talking about. On the Suburb, I know of quite a few private tutors, doctors, solicitors, accountants and barristers who receive callers - I have had none.

I do not receive deliveries (except personal ones), do not dispatch deliveries and there is no noise, smell or any unsightly nuisance from my home.

Then, there is the attack on the Trust. The Trust actually

Quirky subject for Suburb author

It's not often you can read a book and check film clips shot by the author on the web at the same time. When J R Daeschner first heard about shin kicking he was intrigued. As an American who had lived in Britain for some time he thought he knew a thing or two about the country but he had never come across this centuries-old 'sport', which had to be one of the most painful and infuriating ever invented. Further research unearthed more acts of traditional lunacy around Britain and the result is a book which is a brilliant mix of humorous anecdote and interesting analysis of ancient British traditions.



The Daeschners moved to the Suburb from Islington in 1999. "We didn't realise quite what we had found, it was a house in a green place, but we now know how fortunate we are to have landed here. It's a great place for the family, many people move here because of Brookland school where our first daughter has just started, but that was a happy accident for us."

True Brits was featured on Richard and Judy (also Suburb residents) when JR was a guest on the show with Oscar winner Charlize Theron. The Observer has highlighted True Brits as its 'Paperback of the Week', declaring it 'immensely funny; best described in publisher-speak as Bill Bryson meets Tony Hawks'.

True Brits, Arrow paperback £6.99, is at Josephs Bookstore in Temple Fortune. If you want to know what shin kicking, bog snorkelling, cheese rolling, horn dancing and more look like, try: www.truebrits.tv

HGS Theatre Club

Now that spring has sprung and subscription renewal time is here, the Theatre Club has planned yet another magnetic programme. We have already booked for 'Suddenly, Last Summer' (Tennessee William's, with Diana Rigg) - production given five stars by the 'Times' critic, also for 'Democracy' by Michael Frayn and for the world premier of Alan Bennett's new play 'The History Boys'. In July we shall be going to the beautiful Watermill at Newbury to see 'The Venetian Twins'.

Two stop press items: (1) Having just heard that the Globe Theatre now has an Elizabethan (EII) lift - how about a tour

round it in August? (2) Insider dealing - we have secured December tickets for Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical 'The Woman in White', starring Michael Crawford and Maria Friedman. Doubtless not totally faithful to Wilkie Collins' nearly world-first detective story but some winter fun to look forward to.

We always have good seats and door to door transport (or rather Temple Fortune to Temple Fortune) at amazingly low cost.

Should you wish to join the club, please apply to our membership secretary, Charlotte Mohr, 8458 2584.

RUTH CASS

in-fringe-ment, n. violation or breakage of law or agreement. (Sp in **Hampstead Garden Suburb** - nasty things done to houses eg: georgian doors, plastic windows, painted tiles, unauthorised dormers, paved gardens, satellite dishes, etc.)

Minor infringements making a major difference

There are lots of 'infringements' known to the Trust which were perpetrated some time ago when householders were less likely to be stopped. Although relatively minor in themselves they can disfigure the property and the street scene. The Trust actively encourages owners to put things right especially when homes change hands when new residents are often anxious to improve the appearance of their new homes.

Any alterations to houses on the Suburb must be approved by the Trust and by Barnet.

Householders who carry out unauthorised alterations can be, and are, legally obliged to undo the work, to rectify the 'infringement'.



Ugly UPVC windows were replaced in Brim Hill

1950s carports were disfiguring this pretty corner of Hill Close Hampstead Way house

An expanse of paved garden is broken up by the reinstatement of grass and flower beds in Ossulton Way

Beautifully proportioned Crittall windows replaced more UPVC in Norrice Lea

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

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