

Letters to the Editor

3 Ruskin Close
NW11

Sir

What an exciting and interesting article by Michael Holton in the Autumn issue on the Battle of Britain on the Suburb. It showed how people at home stood firm and helped us to win the war.

However, the comment that German aircraft losses were twice ours during the Battle of Britain is what we were told at the time.

The Daily Express of September 16 1940 reported that 175 German aircraft had been shot down the previous day. Later the same day, the Air Ministry increased the claim to 185.

Yet after the war, when British and German figures were re-examined, the actual figure of German losses on September 15 were 58. An enormous variation!

Easy to explain. Imagine a Spitfire or Hurricane firing on an ME109 - seeing it diving away with smoke pouring from it. Claim one aircraft shot down.

Then another British fighter attacks the same ME109 and also claims it as one aircraft shot down.

Yet the ME109 escaped and landed safely in France. Thus an error of two. German figures were similarly exaggerated.

RAF fighters were attacking both German bombers and their escorting fighters. The bombers were larger, slower and easier to shoot down. Probably we lost more fighters than did the Germans. The ME109 was a fine aircraft and in some respects better than our Spitfires and Hurricanes. On a few days the Luftwaffe shot down more aircraft than did the RAF.

In retrospect, the ratio of RAF victories over the Luftwaffe was 1.7:1. The important thing was that Hitler failed to overcome the RAF, stopped attacking RAF airfields, turned on London and abandoned his intention to invade the U.K. We were very lucky.

Yours truly
John M Davis

PS. As a Spitfire and Hurricane pilot (not in the Battle of Britain), I have made it my business to ascertain W.W.II flying facts. Now my successes are measured in Litter Clearance, with a squadron of over 100 'Litter Pickers Up'.

164 Hampstead Way
NW11 7XD

Sir

I would greatly value advice on what to do if one urgently needs a parking space in front of one's own house. I live in Hampstead Way opposite the Gallery.

Recently it was necessary for a heating engineer to come and take away and replace our old gas-boiler. He told us when to expect him, and I was out at dawn to put down borrowed traffic cones, etc., and a polite notice, to reserve parking for his van. Before he could arrive, cones, notice, etc., were pushed aside, and a car put in the space. Consequently when the van arrived, it could not park and the engineer went off to another job.

Next day I was again out at dawn to reserve the space as before, only to have the same thing happen - a different car this time, but the same result. By now fairly desperate, I carried cones, notices, etc., up the road and reserved another space. I also took a chair and sat on the pavement, politely repelling would-be invaders for three hours, until the van could return.

Time and money were wasted in all this. I was also sad that such a vigil should be necessary.

How do other people manage in these sorts of circumstances?

I would really like to know.

Yours
Anne Corden

69 Meadway
NW11 6QJ

Sir

Over the years I delivered the HGS News I read the paper with interest.

The last two issues have now been delivered to me. Somehow I found time to read these issues fully.

The paper is a pleasure to read. Well written - good photos - good mixture of news! To top all this - I've always thought the actual paper it is printed on is so nice to handle. Maybe its name ought to be 'The Shining Sheet' of the HGS!

Thank you for all your work - I've been in my house over 50 years so hope you continue until I go.

Yours
H Goodman

22 Bigwood Road
NW11 7BD

Sir

Thank you for your article in the recent edition of the Suburb News concerning noise in the Suburb. I think the idea of a noise code preventing the use of power tools between noon and 3pm and again after 5.30pm is an excellent one.

Desirable though it may be to have an all-day ban on Saturdays and Sundays, it may be difficult for people who work all week and who do not employ gardeners. It would seem more workable to ban petrol-driven tools, building work and other noisy activities at weekends as well as to maintain the noon till 3pm and after 5.30pm restrictions on all power tools for the weekend as well. This might help to sensitise residents to the fact that whilst the holy day for some is a Saturday, for others it is a Sunday as well as reduce stress levels all round by creating reliable oases of peace during the day.

Yours
Isabelle Ficker

The case of the Big Toe

One Saturday evening my son informed me that he thought he had fractured his big toe.

Help! Where to go? First I thought of the Royal Free Hospital. Saturday night waits, and parking - perhaps not. Finchley Memorial, unfortunately, shuts at 7 p.m.

The Whittington - same problem as the Royal Free. I then thought: why not try the urgent treatment centre at Edgware? Parking was great. We were in and out in one hour, after having X-rays and being bandaged up, crutches supplied. An appointment was made for the following week at the fracture clinic.

I know where I will go next time with my hopping wounded.

PIA DURAN

Help needed

The RA Membership Committee is still looking for new representatives to deliver directories and chase up subscriptions. If you can help call Joan Beales on 8458 6685.

Burglary and car crime soar

Judging by the number of burglaries and vehicle crime being committed on the Hampstead Garden Suburb, it's likely that someone's home or car is being broken into as you read this.

Over the last 12 months there were more than 170 burglaries and over 500 car crimes in our Watch area. Yet, if many people used their common sense most of these burglaries, coupled with the abysmal figures for car crimes, could have been avoided.

In November we saw a different style of burglary where the thieves went fishing through letterboxes for a catch that would be the envy of any trawler fisherman. In the space of three days they hooked car keys from people's hall tables enabling them to make off with three cars to the value of £65,000. Logically one would have thought these cars were stolen to order for export. Not so. Joy riders are becoming more sophisticated and daring in their approach to getting a buzz. One car was dumped a few miles away, another was stopped in the Holloway Road, and the third has yet to be found. The moral of this story - take on board the information you receive from your NW Co-ordinators - never leave your house/car keys on a hall table or anywhere else they can be seen through a letterbox or window.

I attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting recently where a

person in the audience could not see the point in receiving information about burglaries in any area but his own. This isn't Star Trek. Burglars are not teleported to their chosen targets. They find an easy target by travelling around our streets so it is very much our problem what is happening in our neighbouring streets. It might be a house in an adjoining street one day and yours the next, so we can't just worry about our patch.

Greet the New Year with resolve to be more community spirited and security conscious. There is no doubt that if you keep an eye on your neighbour's property they will do the same for you.

- Replace worn out Neighbourhood Watch stickers with new ones.
- Mark and photograph all valuable and sentimental items of property. Make a note of serial numbers, dates and places of purchase and keep all bills.
- Check locks on windows are in good working order and have metal bars fixed horizontally in the middle of frames where there are small windows.
- Install lighting to darkened areas around your property.
- Front and rear doors should be sturdy with secure locking devices.
- Sheds and garage doors should be kept locked when not in use.
- Burglar alarms should be connected to a central station to

ensure police presence in the event of being activated. In case you are unaware of the London Local Authority Act 1991, all burglar alarms should be registered with the Environmental Health & Consumer Services, Barnet House, 1255 High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ. People failing to comply with these requirements are guilty of an offence and are liable for a fine of up to £2,000.

- You should also provide the police with names, addresses and phone numbers of two key holders.
- Always close garage doors after driving out. An empty garage is an open invitation to a burglar to break into your property.
- Never leave your keys in your car when it is left unattended.
- Never leave valuable items on display in your car. Put them in the boot.
- Never leave ladders, tools or gardening equipment lying around the garden.

We have never before experienced the alarming police shortages of manpower, and for this reason readers of this article would do well to heed the advice given. Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and Street Wardens spend a lot of their time passing information and advice on to you that helps protect you, your families, home and contents. Make your lives safer by acting on their advice.

KAYE MORGAN

A memorable Messiah

The autumn season of special concerts under the auspices of the Residents Association culminated in a splendid performance of Handel's *Messiah*, Parts 1 & 2, on Saturday, 18 November in the Free Church.

Given in the presence of the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Gill Sargeant, the concert brought together the choirs of the Free Church, St Jude's and the Alyth Choral Society under the direction of Ken Dougall.

Chair of the Events Committee, Samantha Ambrose, said, "We

were anxious to make this concert a community affair. We hoped it would be an uplifting experience to invite the audience to sing alongside the choirs and we were delighted with the response."

A packed audience was entertained with a spirited performance of this sublime oratorio. Ken Dougall conducted with authority and verve. The massed choirs joined with the audience in a most moving vocal celebration in the beautiful setting of Lutyens's Free Church.

In the interval, having been welcomed by RA Chairman, Richard Wakefield, the Mayor congratulated the performers and spoke of her own early connections with Toynbee Hall. A collection was taken in aid of the Dame Henrietta Barnett Fund which raised nearly £400.

At the end of the concert, members of the audience were unanimous in their praise. The Events Committee hope to make this concert an annual event and hope to see you there next year.

ANNE CRAWLEY

Help us to help you!

Residents are always asking the Trust for the names of good builders, plumbers, decorators, electricians etc.

We can only keep our list up to date if residents supply us with new names.

If you can recommend anybody please complete one or more of the coupons below and return them to the Trust.

Thank you very much for your help.

NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
TEL	FAX
TRADE	_____

NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
TEL	FAX
TRADE	_____

NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
TEL	FAX
TRADE	_____

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (Optional) _____

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

The New Hampstead Garden Trust Ltd. 862 Finchley Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11 6AB. Telephone: 020 8455 1066 & 020 8458 8085