

Letters to the Editor

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Piano lessons for all ages

Mrs Wolff
8455 4521

62 Hill Top
NW11 633

Sir
The Controlled Parking Zone at East Finchley Station has been extended, further inconveniencing Suburb residents who need to use the Station and who do not live within walking distance of it.

The scandal of the Scheme is that it is the product of an alliance between a revenue hungry local authority and a small number of Suburb residents who benefit at the expense of the many. There is barely a property within the Controlled Parking Zone which does not have off-street parking so why should huge sections of the public road be effectively reserved for a handful of people who rarely use it?

Residents of the original Zone were the only people in the Suburb whose opinions were actively sought.

Unsurprisingly they supported it and so helped export the parking problem to their neighbours outside the Zone boundary, even though those newly unfortunate people had elected not to live adjacent to a station with all the attendant shortcomings.

As Barnet had always anticipated, the consequential displaced parking eventually presented an opportunity to extend the scheme to residents outside the original Zone who had little option but to support plans to rectify a hitherto non-existent problem. The result? Still more revenue for the Council and yet more difficult commuting for many in the Suburb.

Barnet's justification for the Scheme is that without it, shoppers would have parked on the Suburb to avoid restrictions in East Finchley but this is nonsense. Although the restriction against parking by non-residents only applies for one hour a day, the Suburb's controlled streets see virtually no parking even at those times when shoppers could park there quite lawfully for several hours at a stretch if they so wished.

Working from home, I am unaffected by the operation of the Controlled Parking Zone, but I believe that all local residents should have had the same opportunity to voice their opinions as had the Scheme's beneficiaries.

Our Councillors assure me that I am the only person in the Suburb who is not content with the parking regime at our station. If readers know otherwise, would they be so kind as to drop me a brief line to determine whether sufficient support exists to consider running a candidate opposed to the Scheme at our next local election.

Yours
Gary Shaw

Hampstead Way
NW11

Sir
To all who worked so hard to give us a wonderful New Year's night.

Thank you for making sure that 2003 had such a splendid start - even arranging that the weather

should be dry and calm!
With very best New Year
Wishes to you all.

Yours
The Corden Family

Wildwood Road
NW11 6UP

Sir
I just wanted to congratulate the organisers of the New Year's Eve fireworks display on Central Square. It was an enjoyable and memorable event and the gathering in St Jude's Church before the display was quite special. I took my three children aged 13, 11 and 3 and they had a great time, as I am sure did the other five hundred people who came to watch.

I do hope the organisers will consider repeating the event next year and every year because it is one of the rare and important occasions which brings the Suburb together in all its diversity.

Yours
Simon Lewis

Meadway
NW11 7AX

Sir
I was interested to read Esther Walker's article in the last issue on the subject of the Suburb tennis courts. Their neglect is indeed very disappointing and a complete waste of a potentially useful resource for Suburb residents.

I have lived around the corner from the Ruskin Close

tennis courts since 1989. In that time one court has remained neglected. The other court had been newly refurbished in the 1980s and was frequently used by many residents with timed slot passes and also for casual use. However, it has not been properly maintained despite numerous phone calls about incursive vegetation. Notwithstanding its deterioration, the fees for both timed slots and casual use have become so expensive that it is not worthwhile using them and we very rarely hear the sound of tennis being played on the court.

Presumably, the Institute has obligations to maintain these courts. If so why are they not being enforced by the Trust? I only know about the Ruskin Close and Central Square courts, but I wonder if there are other tennis courts owned by the Trust but leased to the Institute which are in a similar parlous state?

However, there is a larger issue here which is whether there is a requirement for so many tennis courts around the Suburb. If this is the case then there should be a debate about how these valuable open spaces might be used in future.

I would be interested to hear of any suggestions that other residents may have, maybe we should form a committee of concerned residents. I have some ideas, in areas that are not too near homes, why might a court or two not be converted for netball or basketball?

In areas backing on to homes some of the courts that are surplus to requirements

could just be turned into garden areas for general use.

In any event, the more residents complain as a focused lobby, more likely we are to provoke the Trust and Institute to take some action.

Yours
Julia Goschalk

Sir
HAMPSTEAD RUGBY CLUB
In your last edition you published information about our local rugby club.

What is lacking is local support. This our local club and most of the players live in our area. It is a family orientated club and at matches there are usually families with children running around and enjoying themselves.

The First XV league home fixtures arranged to date on Saturdays are:

1 Feb - Old Merchant Taylors
01 Mar - Grasshoppers
29 Mar - Old Hamptonians

Friendly matches are arranged nearer the date.

Kick-off times vary according to the season - 2pm in early January, moving forward with the light.

Match reports and next week's fixtures appear in the Ham & High. Further information is available from Mark Spilsbury, the secretary, on 020 8347 7178.

Please turn up if you can. You will see some fast moving, skilful, end to end physical play which you will enjoy watching.

Yours
Tom Sales

in-'fringe-ment, n. violation or breach 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



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



A 'Suburb' door replaced one which spoiled the look of this Hampstead Way house



1950s carports were disfiguring this pretty corner of Hill Close



Beautifully proportioned Crittall windows replaced more UPVC in Norrice Lea

HAMPSTEAD - GARDEN - SUBURB - TRUST

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