

# LETTERS

16 March

Dear Sir,

I have for some time been worried by the increasing illegal use of pavements and footpaths by cyclists on the Suburb and Heath Extension etc, and I think the RA should oppose any legitimising of this situation.

I used to try pointing out to the errant cyclists that they were breaking the law, but regularly received such a torrent of abuse and threats, that I have given it up as a bad job.

The police are presumably too busy with serious crime to worry about this small infringement. I

have seen a police car drive slowly past a cyclist on the pavement and take no action whatever.

Cyclists and pedestrians do not mix. Cyclists on the pavement either startle pedestrians as they ride silently and swiftly up from behind, or they add insult to injury by ringing their bells.

No doubt responsible cyclists cause no trouble, but there are too many aggressive and uncaring cyclists about as well.

Yours  
Tim Neal

6 Temple Fortune Lane  
NW11 7UD

30 March

Dear Sir,

May I add to the article in your last edition about the destruction of hedges and trees in Wild Hatch?

The Design Guidance booklet issued jointly by The Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and Barnet states: - "Hedges are important to the overall appearance of the Suburb and should be preserved. The retention of mature trees and hedges is vital to the Garden Suburb scene." "Walls and weatherboarded or panelled fences are likely to be unacceptable." These are fine words which everyone should applaud. But the actions (or inactions) of the authors are very different.

**Example 1.** From Barnet on 4 December 1986 about Garricks Glebe (a coppice between Wild Hatch and the Crematorium).

"The site is now within the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area. The close boarded fence which screens the land from Wild Hatch is not considered to be materially detrimental to this part of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Conservation Area and hence enforcement action is not recommended."

This decision is scandalous. It has resulted in the destruction of beautiful mature trees and the planting of conifers which are completely alien to this area and the erection of a 6 foot fence.

**Example 2.** From the Suburb Trust Manager on 5 September 1994.

"In the case of gardens backing onto public footpaths, insurance companies often insist on proper fences before they are prepared to insure a property."

This is rubbish. Six well known insurance companies were contacted and not one had heard of this.

**Example 3.** From the Suburb Trust Manager on 12 September 1994.

"Besides security, there is also the question of privacy."

The police deny that wooden fences provide security as they give cover to miscreants; convicted burglars confirm this. Today there are many highly sophisticated and efficient devices available for security purposes. As to privacy - nobody concerned about lack of privacy should buy a property backing onto a public footpath.

At the Trust's AGM on 13 September 1995, the Chairman stated that the General Council was the only body authorised to give permission for fences on footpaths. When asked when permissions were granted, none have been given, so it appears that none of those disfiguring Wild Hatch are authorised.

What can be done to put matters right? Barnet and the Trust could and should jointly give notice to the householders concerned to remove the fences and restore the hedges. They should also organise a "Save Wild Hatch" programme and clean it up; the Residents Association had a very successful "Suburb Clean-Up Week" a few years ago.

Barnet and the Trust are responsible for not enforcing their own rules, and they should deal with it.

I am holding a great deal of evidence and correspondence, some of which goes back many years. I shall be very glad to show it to anyone who cares to see it.

Yours  
Tom Sales

90 Falloden Way  
NW11 6JD

6 March

Dear Sir,

Roz Archer's serious article on cycling in the Suburb deserves a serious response, proposing as it does a healthier and more socially responsible approach to shorter journeys than the too frequent reliance on the motor car. There is, however, one aspect of current cycle route proposals which could have dangerous repercussions if adopted: the sharing of pedestrian footways with cyclists.

At present the use of the footways by cyclists is illegal. This, like so many regulations today, is widely ignored and those who do so invariably adopt a tone of injured self-righteousness when reminded of their offence. Their justification - that the roads are too dangerous for them to cycle on - is really an invalid argument. By making the footways dangerous for pedestrians they are acting just as anti-socially as the motorists whose behaviour they decry. We are almost all of us pedestrians. Some who want to go faster or further to carry greater loads resort to cycles or cars, but we should not delude ourselves into believing this choice entitles us to do so at the expense of those still using nature's most basic form of transport.

On Falloden Way, together with our other traffic problems, we have the serious difficulty posed by cyclists illegally speeding along the pedestrian footways with little regard for the safety of

others. A number of residents have been struck by cyclists, myself twice, and I can assure you that the experience, coming without warning, is both painful and scaring.

There is a perfectly satisfactory solution and one which should recommend itself to all but the most selfish set of wheels. Or the most pig-headed and insensitive traffic authority.

Falloden Way has three lanes at the moment and the Department of Transport has finally recognised the impossibility of persuading the public of the benefits of extending this capacity. It would make the most perfect sense to centralise the present offset pedestrian refuges and deploy the roadspace available as one single traffic lane and one separate, dedicated cycle lane in each direction. This may require some downgrading of the status of Falloden Way, but that would in any case be to the benefit of the Suburb and hence the National Heritage, so I shall be recommending this course of action to our MP, Mr John Marshall. As he is on public record as supporting the detrunking of Falloden Way and has been such a help to us over the Henly's Corner Scheme, I am confident that, given evidence of public concern, he will be happy to pursue the matter with the appropriate powers.

So, if residents would like to see a more Suburb-friendly Falloden Way and one which is more cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly too, they should take a few minutes to drop him a line urging him to chase up the issue with all speed!

Yours Terry Rand

## Tennis with tea and cakes

For the past year the members of Farm Walk Tennis Club have enjoyed tea and cakes with their tennis at weekends. Rosalie Werner, who has lived in Hampstead Way for many years, makes the cakes and has become a familiar and welcome figure at the club at these times. If you are interested in both the tennis and the occasional good tea - come and join us! Esmé Kingsley, our Membership Secretary, will gladly give you further information (Tel: 203 1731).

By the time you read this the season will have started and we will have had our Open Day, but if you would like to visit the Club you would be very welcome at our Finals Day which this year is on Sunday 23 June. We hope for another beautiful sunny day like we had last year so that we can enjoy the garden and the roses.

Our Junior Section is flourishing and has over 120 members. They started coaching sessions on 17 April and will be having a barbecue on 18 May. These are always popular events as are the regular tournaments organised by Sally Freeman, our invaluable coach. Contact Sally (440 6936), or Corinne Leverton (883 2589) for further information.

Sally arranges coaching sessions for all levels of play at the Club, including Improver Members, a category of membership designed for learners or those who haven't played for some time. So contact Sally whether you need to brush up your tennis or want more advanced coaching.

Gill Read

### P R HARTLEY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT & LICENSED AUDITOR

Accounting and Taxation Service

Call 0181-455 7639

0171-377 9996

Fax 0171-375 0900

### Golders Green College

and School of English

is proud to announce

#### NEW FACILITIES

- ★ teachers training centre (Trinity College validated courses)
- ★ students coffee shop
- ★ students access centre
- ★ state of the art WP centre

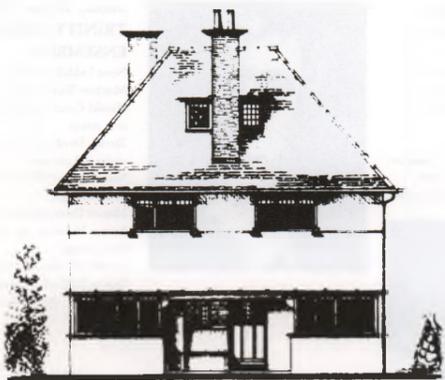
all at no extra cost !!!

1 and 11 Golders Green Road, London NW11

Telephones/Faxes:

(0181 905 5467 / 455 6528)

### ROZ ARCHER BUILDING DESIGN



Roz Archer, 85 Northway, London, NW11 6NY  
Tel & Fax: 0181 201 8670

### Thanks from the Hospice

£712.00 was raised for the North London Hospice at the Bring & Buy Coffee Morning in the Tea House on 3 February. Many thanks to all those who supported us.

Sylvia Cleary &  
Yvonne Oliver

### Fred Perkins and Sons

Window cleaning for  
Suburb residents only.  
(Est. 1957).

32 West Avenue  
London N3 1AX  
0181 343 3133



## LOW RISK HOUSEHOLDS SHOULD NOT PAY HIGH RISK PREMIUMS

Are you a low risk household?

Do you belong to

Neighbourhood Watch?

Have you adequate security?

If so, you may substantially save on your Building and Contents Insurance and also enjoy the benefits of NO CLAIMS BONUS.

For further information and advice please write to:

**Brownhill, Morris and West  
(Insurance Services) Limited**  
16 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 2JE.  
Telephone: 0181-658 4334

**General  
Accident**

Underwritten by the

**GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE & LIFE  
ASSURANCE CORPORATION PLC**