

HORNSEY & CROUCH END

JOURNAL

Viewpoints

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Here's hoping for a return to floral paradise

TO MY neighbours on Colney Hatch Lane and anywhere else the cap fits...

I moved to Muswell Hill when I was five, with my parents, from an attic flat in Ladbroke Grove, where we had no garden.

Walking up Colney Hatch Lane from Seymour Court to Pages Lane, there was a continuous grass verge with trees and in spring, crocuses and daffodils. Picture this from the height of a five-year-old – I thought it was paradise!

So, when a lot of it was lost to parking bays a few years ago, some of us made sure there was an agreement to leave two to three metres of verge – mostly comprising the tree roots – each side of each tree trunk, otherwise the trees would die.

Seeing the workmen cutting right up to the trunk of a tree, I called out everyone I could think of and people from the council came and measured 2.5 metres each side of the remaining trees, so those bits were preserved.

But the workmen did remove a lot of the topsoil and spring bulbs from them and they have been deteriorating ever since, worsened by the cavalier treatment by the workmen this summer and the dumping on the area at the foot of the Holm Oak.

What I saw, walking up Colney Hatch Lane when I was five, is gone for ever, but there is still time to ensure that the children who walk up there in the future will, between the lines of parked cars, see glimpses of what was once there.

Which is why I have covered this area with lots of compost, spring bulbs and grass seed, I am asking my neighbours not to dump stuff on it and keeping my fingers crossed. – *Julia Edwards, N10.*

It is too late...

FURTHER to the letter (Journal, September 23) from Bob Lindsay-Smith, it is too late... the damage has been done to the shop on the corner of Northumberland Park.

This Grade II listed building is now defaced by the garish green of yet another Paddy Power. Listing means that the exterior of a building should not be altered or defaced in any way. Yet somehow Paddy Power have worked the system in their favour. I contacted Haringey's planning and conservation department recently, and was informed that they had no knowledge of this.

How many more Paddy Powers are there waiting in the wings to further deface Tottenham? – *Janet Harris, Tottenham Conservatives, Edmansons Close, N17.*

Banks allowed to be irresponsible

AM I alone in tiring of hearing politicians pleading for more restraint among bankers, especially about big banker bonuses?

The unpalatable truth is that bankers have behaved as most of us would, had we also been granted – almost literally – a licence to print money. We'd have been at that printing press day and night!

Greed is a sin that we're all happy to ascribe to others. Greed isn't a good thing but it comes naturally to most of us, given the chance. Bankers' greed is no different from our own qualitatively, but in terms of quantity, it

dwarfs all other greed, especially in its effects. In aggregate, banker-greed endangered the whole economy. Banks need protection from themselves and for the sake of us all.

When unsolicited "credit card cheque books" come via the post, that's a sign that banks have too much money to lend.

When banks offer 125 per cent mortgages, that's nature's way of telling you that credit has become too easy. Watch for these signs in a few years' time and be ready to head for the hills!

It's not simply that banks behaved

parked virtually permanently in these roads. Derelict and abandoned vehicles are allowed to hog spaces until their tax discs expire.

There is nowhere for residents to park. Yet these roads have not been included in the current proposals to extend CPZs.

When local residents have asked Haringey Council to allow us to be included in any CPZ extension, we have been told that the problem is of our own making and so we must suffer.

The council takes the attitude that the problems we are now experiencing are our own fault, because we voted against the introduction of a CPZ, when we were originally offered one, several years ago. This is daft!

When we were last consulted, we obviously did not know how the surrounding roads were responding, until after the close of the consultation when all the results were announced.

At that time we still hoped that everyone would say "No". The council has insisted that we are not due for a further consultation for several years and continues to do nothing about the problem.

A responsible strategy for Controlled Parking Zones would mean that ALL the roads in a rationally defined area would be included, or there should be NO CPZs at all, avoiding the problems created by the borders.

– *Sue Carroll, Mount View Road, N4.*

THE current action of Haringey Council to introduce further CPZs, without a coherent overall strategy, is irresponsible.

The consequences for the roads which remain outside the scheme are entirely predictable and unacceptable.

If the council can now use "exceptional powers" to introduce CPZs in further roads at short notice, it is unreasonable to leave other roads, which are already badly affected, outside the scheme.

The current consultation has the title "front-line". We live on a CPZ "front-line" at the eastern end of Mount View Road, close to Haringey station.

We border on a region of Controlled Parking Zones extending into the Congestion Charge area in the south, and are already feeling the effects of the creeping CPZs around Crouch End in the north.

The roads round here are routinely used as a free parking space by the owners of commercial vehicles – vans, trucks, taxis, etc – for overnight and weekend parking. During the day, the roads are clogged with cars belonging to commuters going to Haringey station.

Some vehicles, such as camper vans and broken down cars, belonging to people living miles away, in other boroughs, are

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ELWOOD TOOK IT
LITERALLY WHEN HE
WAS TOLD HE NEEDED
A "CRASH-COURSE"
IN DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Search for Sheila

I AM searching for my dad's sister. We have no idea what happened to her after her birth in January, 1942.

Sheila Ann was born in St Mary's Hospital, Islington, and her mother's name was Gertrude Florence Allen, nee Hilliard. The father was named as Anderson.

My dad was brought up by his grandparents and did not know that he had two sisters. Maureen, who was adopted, is coming over from Australia to meet the family in October. It would be fantastic if we could find Sheila as well in time for a reunion.

– *Denise Alexander, 26 Fairbanks Road, N17 9JJ, telephone 020 8442 7754 (work), 020 8365 9781 (home), 07778 4110369 (mobile).*

Unions entitled to have their say

I TOO would like to join with Scott Green (Viewpoints, Journal, September 30) and his colleagues in the Haringey Tory party in congratulating Ed Miliband on his election as the leader of the Labour Party. However, that is as far as I will go in aligning myself with the comments of Mr Green.

I am not a member of a union but I have friends and colleagues who are and they, as do I, take great exception to seeing the right-wing media portraying Mr Miliband's victory, as one delivered by a few powerful union barons.

As Mr Green will know, unions are made up of everyday men and women – teachers, nurses and other front line staff who ensure that our country keeps moving. They are entitled to have their say and should be allowed to have it! So stop doing them down!

I didn't support Ed Miliband in the leadership election; but the result has been announced and the Labour Party here in Haringey and across the nation is coming together – united – as we share Ed's vision for a better Britain with people in communities everywhere.

The talk of the national interest is interesting because, as an 18-year-old, I am seeing mates and peers of mine not being able to find jobs, seeing their apprenticeships programmes cancelled and universities too expensive to consider.

If we are looking to protect our national interest; we should be investing in our young people not walking by on the other side. Sadly this is something this new Government seems too ready to do. – *Adam Jogee, chairman, Hornsey Labour Party, Middle Lane, N8.*

Secretive support

I NOTE that Haringey Tories (Viewpoints, Journal, September 30) in congratulating Ed Miliband as the new leader of the Labour Party manage a moan about the trade unions role in the matter. Indeed some unions are part of the process of choosing a new Labour leader.

They determine who to support after democratic discussions among members who pay the political levy. Union members then vote, or not, individually and secretly.

By contrast, I note that David Cameron as Tory leader owes his position in part to the funds of Lord Ashcroft. The millionaire Tory donor of course is elected by no one although it is certainly true that he appears to go about his affairs largely in secret. – *Keith Flett, Mitchley Road, N17.*

Honesty at last?

NOW that Ed Miliband has been elected as Labour leader, we can expect some honesty, at last, from Labour supporters.

I hope Ed will also take a leaf out of Liberal Democrat conferences where members can disagree openly, unlike Labour's where old pensioners are forcefully ejected from the conference.

Perhaps Keith Flett can explain the complete silence from unions after Gordon Brown promised 80,000 civil service jobs at the time of the 2005 election, of which about 40,000 had already gone by this last election.

Other likely reasons why Labour lost was the child poverty actually increased, tax became more regressive under Mr Brown and Labour did nothing about tax evasion/avoidance.

Oops, I almost forgot, Gordon Brown signed the Finance Act which allowed MPs to avoid tax on their second homes. – *JL Fynaut, Grasmere Road, N10.*