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The Editor - The Times  
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14<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Dear Sir,

Last week we saw the demolition by developers of the Carlton Pub in Maida Vale, North London, despite the refusal of planning permission and the prospect of the building being listed by English Heritage. Next week, in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Battle of Britain, we face the prospect of the demolition of the former home of one of the greatest aircraft designers the world has known.

Sir Sydney Camm, designer of the Hawker Hurricane which shot down 60% of the enemy planes in 1940 and of many other fighter planes including the Harrier, was described by the News Chronicle in 1941 as "This man saved Britain". He lived and worked for 28 years in an attractive family house in Thames Ditton, Surrey, which now faces demolition next week by developers Shanly Homes. Plans for building 4 new houses on the site involving the proposed demolition of Sir Sydney's house Carradale were refused by Elmbridge Council. Pleas to save this historic house have been ignored, even though it could easily be restored to create a home which would sell for well over £1 million as well as the profit on 2 new houses in the garden.

Greed seems to have overcome any feeling for our history or recognition of the tremendous contribution Sir Sydney Camm made to saving our country. We ask that even at this late stage the developers recognise this and scale back their plans to demolish this historic house.

Yours faithfully

Ruth Lyon , Elmbridge Borough Councillor

Karen Randolph, Elmbridge Borough Councillor

Peter Barrington, Head, School of Aerospace & Aircraft Engineering, Kingston University

Stewart M. John O.B.E. Past President, Royal Aeronautical Society

Allan Winn, Director, Brooklands Museum Trust

Capt. Eric M. Brown C.B.E, D.S.C., A.F.C., QCVSA, Past President, Royal Aeronautical Society