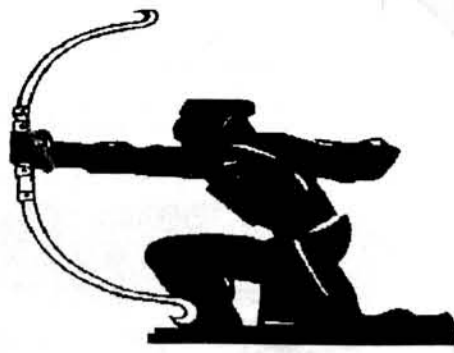


# THE ARCHER



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September 1993 No. 8 **20p**

## BARONSMERE ROAD GUN ATTACK!

# Woman shot by motorist

By Cathy Young

A WOMAN walking in East Finchley recently was shot with an air-gun from a passing car. It followed only minutes after a similar shooting in Golders Green.

DC Ward at Golders Green police station appeals for help from the public on the two serious assaults.

They took place on Wednesday August 18 at 10.55 pm. and 11.05 pm. The victim of the first shooting, an 18-year old American woman, was hit by a pellet in the arm in Welgarth Road, NW11.

The other woman is aged 28 and a resident of East Finchley. She was shot in Baronsmere Road, N2, from a car identified as a Ford Capri.

For obvious reasons she does not wish to be named, but here is her story printed verbatim from her letter to The Archer:

**“** I HAVE lived in the area for the past five years and have always enjoyed the friendly atmosphere here. Although I very seldom walk the streets late at night, on this occasion I was visiting a friend who only lives five minutes away from me. My journey was from East End Road, onto the High Road and into Baronsmere Road.

### CRACKING SOUND

As I turned into Baronsmere Road I noticed a car turning very slowly into the road. I carried on walking quite briskly but the car was now parallel to me. I noticed a man in the car with what looked like some sort of gun pointing at me. The next thing I remember was hearing a cracking sound and something hitting my thigh, which caused me considerable pain. The car then drove away.

In a state of shock I did not manage to get his number

plate. My main concern was to get home as soon as possible, in case he came back. On arriving home I realised that the wound was from a pellet gun, which has left a nasty gash in my thigh and a lot of swelling.

Who in their right mind would want to drive around hitting innocent people for no apparent reason? I also learned from the police that another girl in the Golders Green area was hit on the same evening.

### APPEAL FOR HELP

I am writing to you in the hope that you will mention this incident to your readers with a view to warning them to be extra-careful when walking the streets, especially late at night.

There is every possibility that this man may strike again, causing more serious injuries to his victims.

Let's just hope that this lunatic is caught as soon as possible, before he causes more harm.

**”**

## Council aim for swift response to residents

**BARNET residents are entitled to a swift and efficient response to all written enquiries - and the council is determined to see they get it.**

As part of the authority's customer care drive, the council has set a target within which if an acknowledgment is not

sent immediately to any enquiry letter, a full response must be made in 15 days at the latest.

The aim is that at least 80% of all written enquiries should be answered in full within the 15-day period and that this performance should steadily improve.



Finchley Swimming Pool - presently left to decay. Photo by Graham Hobbs

## Future of pool now depends on the public

Carol Andrewes writes:

**THE future of Finchley Swimming Pool and the surrounding areas will be decided by the Recreation, Leisure and Arts Committee on September 27 at the Town Hall, Hendon, at 7 pm. when a decision will be made whether to accept or reject revised development proposals put forward by THI (Leisure Parks) Ltd.**

The company's original development plans were rejected in response to huge public opposition, primarily as a result of a campaign by the Finchley Swimming Pool Preservation Society, local residents and other interested groups.

### PUBLIC SITE

The pool and surrounding areas, both of which form part of the Glebelands and Finchley Common, is very valuable land - a prize catch for any developer.

The freehold of this site belongs to us, the general public, and therefore it is for **us** to decide about future developments.

The Council should be there

to represent the wishes of the people.

This particular area of Finchley Common was purchased by Finchley Urban Council in 1925, the intention being for it 'to become public property for all time'. The Council has said that no new scheme will go ahead without consultation with all residents and interested groups.

### NIGHTCLUB

In the new plans, the two new pools, both indoor and outdoor, are a fraction of the size of the original swimming pool. It would also mean the loss of public gardens and tennis courts to make way for a nightclub and extensive car parking facilities, which would create a visual impact on the area as well as an increase in the volume of traffic to the surrounding areas.

### CHANCE FOR POOL?

The Finchley Swimming Pool Preservation Society, which has been fighting to save the pool from closure since 1991 and the land from being bulldozed, says that if

**Continued on Page 2.**

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### Press Releases

To be considered for publication, your press release should be newsworthy, typed in double spacing on one side of an A4 page and should arrive at our office by the third Friday of the month preceding publication.

We will accept neat handwritten copy but only if previously arranged with the newspaper.

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Barnet 081-953 6282  
Haringey 081-366 1112  
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Water (all N2) 0707-277111 \*

### Councils

Barnet 081-202 8282  
Haringey 081-975 9700

### Hospitals

Barnet Health 081-200 1555  
Coppetts Wood 081-883 9792  
Finchley Mem. 081-349 3121  
Royal Free 071-794 0500  
St Lukes 081-883 8311  
Whittington 071-2723070

### Police

Emergency 999  
Finchley 081-342 2212  
Golders Green 081-209 2212  
Muswell Hill 081-340 8055

### Courts

**Crown:**  
Wood Green 081-881 1400  
**Coroner's:**  
Hornsey 081-348 4411  
**County:**  
Barnet 081-440 7318  
**Magistrates:**  
Barnet 081-441 9042  
Haringey 081-340 3472  
Hendon 081-200 1141

### Help & Advice

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DHSS Linkline 0800-666555  
NSPCC 0800-800500

### Transport

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Grey-Green 081-800 8010  
National Xpress 071-730 0202  
Heathrow 081-759 4321  
Euston BR 071-387 7070  
St Pancras 071-387 7070  
Kings X 071-278 2477

\* Thanks to the anonymous reader who contacted *The Archer* regarding the Water company telephone number. We've checked with Lea Valley Water Ltd. and the number we publish is the correct emergency number. (The accounts department number is 0707 276111.)

## Plain language drive to improve communications

CUT the jargon. Stick to the facts and make it simple and easy to understand. This is the message to all Barnet staff from Council leader Roy Shutz as the authority steps up its plain language campaign as part of the customer care drive.

"I want every letter - every piece of literature leaving the council to be targeted for close scrutiny to ensure that all written communications are clear, to the point and produced with the reader in mind," Cllr. Schutz told a meeting of the Policy and Resource Committee.

Cllr. Schutz is calling for all managers to look again at the language used in standard let-

ters, forms and leaflets to ensure they are free of jargon and easy to understand.

### DOCUMENTS MONITORED

From now on there will be a plain language representative in every directorate to monitor all documents. There will also be pilot testing of all new letters and forms with residents and random sampling of all one-off correspondence.

The council is also considering setting up consumer panels to vet material for plain language before mass mailings.

Local government and official bodies generally have earned a reputation in the past for producing complicated, jargon-loaded

letters and forms which cause great difficulty for those faced with understanding them.

"I am determined to see that this is not the case in Barnet. It is our declared objective to continue to improve two-way communications with residents. This plain language initiative is an important step in this programme," added Cllr. Schutz.

### Editors Note:

Hooray for Mr. Shutz!

At long last, our servants, the council staff, are going to talk to us, who pay their wages, in a language we can understand.

Does this mean that in the future we, the customers, will receive a Council Tax report in a form that most of us can get to grips with?

Does this also mean the end of being treated as idiots when we question their gobbledegook?

If any reader has had any interesting dealings with the council recently, please write to me at *The Archer*.

## Future of pool depends on the public

continued from Front Page

the revised development plans are rejected during September's meeting, there is every chance that the pool could open next year.

*The Archer* has also learned that the Council had planned to open the pool this year but it was not re-opened because no provision was made in the budget plans for the current financial year. It does seem strange, therefore, that funds were made available towards the high costs of safety measures to keep the vandals out.

*The Archer* wants to see adequate provision made for both swimming and other all round family leisure activities without the considerable loss of open space.

The future of Finchley Pool, which includes the largest children's pool in Britain, once hailed as the pride of the borough,

depends on the actions of Barnet residents.

You might be interested to know that the residents of Haringey forced the council to re-open Park Road Open Air Swimming Pool which had been closed for several years - we can do the same here.

### Editor's Appeal - what you can do

The team at *The Archer* wants to see adequate provision for both swimming and other family leisure activities without a big loss

of open space.

If you agree with us, then act now; it is your **last chance** to air your views.

You can air them in writing to any of the people or organisations below and go along to the meeting at the Hendon Town Hall on September 27 at 7 pm.

**Cllr. John Hart**, Chairman, Recreation Leisure and Arts Committee, 11 Mount View, London NW7 3HT

**Cllr. Mary Phillips**, Chairman, Central Area Planning Committee, 15 Chiddingfold, London N12

**Cllr. John Tiplady**, Chairman, Town & Planning Research Committee, 23 Finchley Park, London N12 9JS

**Finchley Swimming Pool Preservation Society**, 32 Long Lane, London N3.



Pool to be closed forever?

Photo by Julietta Wagman

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## Church Lane pipe burst

Cathy Young reports:

HOMES and businesses in East Finchley were caught short after a burst pipe led to water supplies to the south of Church Lane being cut off for one day recently.

"We were lucky our boiler didn't blow up," said the assistant at H.R. Dry Cleaners, as he apologised for being unable to provide the usual "two hour service" advertised.

Further down the High Street people were speaking of having to buy bottled water to make tea and to wash in.

The publican of the Alexandra, a few yards away from the gushing pipe, was desperately clutching at straws as he asked 'The Archer' team at the scene, "Are you from the Water Board? I've got a pub to run and I can't do it without water!"

Help was at hand, however, and East Finchley was returned to normal by 3:00pm that day.

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Photo by Malcolm Griffiths

# Unlimited advice from new advice service

A NEW independent advice service is up and running in the East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre.

Staffed by experienced volunteers (more always welcome; full training given), the service aims to answer all your queries about benefits, housing, immigration and employment.

The times that these services will be available to the public are 10.00am - 12.00 noon and 2.00pm - 4.00pm Mondays and Fridays.

On Tuesday afternoons there will be job-search counselling with personnel manager, Eve Brenner.

She provides a friendly and personal approach to all people looking for work or a change in career.

Eve can advise on C.V. writing, interview techniques and self-marketing.

Also available is a special legal service with solicitors giving advice and help on any legal problem you may have.

Times here are 7.00 - 8.00pm on Tuesday evenings.

The centre is at 42 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2. Telephone: 081- 444 6265.

## Barnet puts names to the faces of council staff

BARNET residents have a right to know who they are dealing with at the council - and from now on the authority is determined to make sure this happens.

As part of the council's customer care initiative, posters showing the pictures and names of key staff - including complaints officers, will be featured at all service delivery points.

In addition, all staff will wear name badges showing their

department and job. "The days of the faceless bureaucrats are a thing of the past in Barnet."

"Accountability is the key to the way we deal with residents - and this latest move is just another example of it," council leader councillor Roy Shutz stressed at a recent Policy & Resources Committee.

Eventually, the scheme will also apply to contractors working for the council.

## The healthy alternative

Muswell Healing Arts is holding a free Open Day on Saturday September 18. The timetable of talks is:

11:00 Shiatsu

12:00 Hypnotherapy  
1:00 Aromatherapy  
2:00 Acupuncture  
3:00 Homoeopathy  
4:00 Alexander Technique.

Therapists will also be around during the day to discuss any health queries.

The centre is at the Natural Health Clinic, 169 Avenue Mews (off Queens Avenue), Muswell Hill. Telephone 081-365 3545.

Member of: The British Music Hall Society, The Concert Artists Association, The London Concert Parties Association

**Tessa Newman** L.T.C.L.  
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## N2 CRIME DIARY . . .

### HOLD-UP AT GUNPOINT

A 20-year old man walked into Thresher's off-licence in East Finchley High Road and pulled out a gun (August 9).

He pointed the gun at the shop assistant and ordered her into the back of the shop as he was going to empty the contents of the till.

The assistant screamed and he panicked and fled from the shop right into the arms of an off-duty policeman from St Albans who happened to be passing.

The policeman took the man to Golders Green police station.

### CHIVALROUS THIEVES!

Chivalrous thieves stole a handbag from the reception office of the Nazareth House residential home in East End Road recently

and left in its place a bunch of flowers. The owner of the handbag was not amused (August 15).

### And the rest of the diary...

August 3: A woman returning to her home in Red Lion Hill had her handbag containing £15 snatched as she entered her front garden.

She ran to the nearby Red Lion pub and four customers went in search of the mugger but failed to find him. He is described as black and 5ft 8ins tall.

August 8: Another mugging took place, but this time in Heath View. An unemployed man passed over his watch and £5 to a man who threatened him with a knife.

August 16: A lawyer in Long Lane was awakened at 4:30am

by the sound of his bathroom window slamming. He ignored it and in the morning he found the window smashed and £50 taken.

August 21: Some £3,000 of jewellery was stolen from a house in Creighton Avenue at 7pm while the owner was in the house. Entry was gained through an upstairs bedroom.

August 18: By forcing patio doors, a thief entered a house in Park Hall Road while the resident was at work and stole cameras, hi-fi equipment cd's and jewellery.

August 31: Thieves kicked in the front door to a house in Elm Hurst Crescent. The owner, a 70-year-old woman, returned to find goods to the value of £1,500 missing.

Same evening: £1,000 of video equipment stolen from a house in Church Lane.

## Credit to local businesses!

by Kevin Finn

What is thought to be the country's first Business Club Credit Union is being launched this month by the North London Enterprise Club. This will allow small businesses to save money on a regular basis, and to acquire unsecured loans at rates and terms not currently available from the clearing banks.

The concept of a credit union started in Germany back in 1849 and provides a vehicle whereby groups can pool their financial resources to the advantage of everyone.

### FULLY SUPPORTED

The North London Enterprise Club is an organisation which acts as a support and services point for new small businesses in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. The credit union is an extension to this service and is expected to be readily accepted and used by the business community in North London.

The credit union allows members to contribute a regular monthly sum into their own account. This investment can be as little as £1 per month with a maximum of £5,000 per member. The account is flexible in that the contributions each week or month can be varied in line with the prosperity of the member's business, so long as the minimum £1 contribution is adhered to. Interest is awarded at a rate not exceeding 8% as laid down by law.

### LOANS OF £10,000

If a member requires finance for their business, the credit union is able to help by making an unsecured loan to the member. Members are able to borrow up to twice what they have saved and this credit union has a ceiling of £10,000 so long as they can demonstrate the ability to repay the loan. The interest charged on a loan is not allowed to exceed 1% per month (12.68% pa) and can

therefore be a realistically priced option.

All members, whether depositors or borrowers, are protected by built-in insurance, so again there are considerable savings in that there are no hidden extras to worry about.

This seems to be a very good idea and, for the 'younger' businesses in the area, at least a good alternative to bank borrowing.

For more information, contact Sue King at the North London Enterprise Club on 447 1000.

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**Local History**

by Edna Hobbs

**"STRANGE and bloody news of a most Horrible Murder committed on the 26th of this instant October at Finchley near Browns Well in Middlesex".**

Thus runs the headline of a folio news sheet published in October 1684.

It tells the tale of Thomas Cover, a young farmer, who fell in love with a beautiful, virtuous and educated farmer's daughter, Elizabeth

trustees (Feoffees) of the Charities. The fact that only one was maintained may explain prevalence of both singular and plural forms of the name.

In 1710, according to another local historian, C.O. Banks, a red bridge was built across the ford of the brook and later the road was made up to its present level.

**ABANDONED BOY**

Banks also notes that on 27 November 1807 a boy of about 15 months was found abandoned at Browns Well and baptised at Finchley Church by Rev. Ralph Worsley. He was named Thomas Finchley. There is no evidence of any descendants

**Murder most foul**

Draper. "The Ceremonious (sic) part of their courtship being over, Thomas Cover asked her when they should be married, she answered she could not tell..."

It transpired that she had changed her mind about marrying him. "Upon this, Thomas Cover appeared very melancholy, and went to bed (his lodgings being in the same house) and after he had walked an hour or two in his chamber, pondering upon the matter, he went down stairs and fetched up a Bason (sic) of water and a great butcher's knife they used to kill hogs with..." At 12 o'clock, he took off his shoes and stole into the room where Elizabeth slept.

**THE BLOODY DEED**

He then went to Elizabeth's bedside and feeling her throat endeavoured to cut it. But she had on a calico hood which was tied with a knot under her chin. "As he intended the fatal stroke, the knot sav'd it from her flesh, though on one side there was a great gash".

She awoke, cried out and Thomas fled to an adjacent close and "immediately with the same knife cut his own throat, from ear to ear."

His body was found the following morning and "a Jury of the Neighbours" found him guilty of "his own Murder".

Apparently, it was a hermit named Brown who, about a hundred years or so before this murder, had lived on the site where the soon-to-be-demolished Green Man pub now stands. He collected stones or bricks and made two wells on either side of the track to collect water from two springs which fed Strawberry Vale Brook.

The water from the wells was sweet and fresh, and of great importance to travellers from the City of London. Unfortunately these wells, from which the area took its name, no longer exist and their exact location is unknown.

Local historian Fred Davis, records that for centuries one of these wells was kept in repair by the

locally, but it would be interesting to know what happened to him.

In his booklet "Finchley's Countryside", Oliver Natelson writes: "The site now called Browns Wells Common refers to a vacant plot of land situated at the south-west quadrant of the junction of the High Road and the North Circular Road. Here fronting the High Road in the 1890s stood a row of four houses with large gardens having farmland to the rear."

Arthur Hall remembers that these houses were referred to as "the Brownsells".

"One house was used by a film company, and they made films locally," recalls Arthur. This was the British and Colonial Kinematograph Company, founded by A.H. Bloomfield and J.M. McDowel. It had its first studio at Newstead House, the third of these villas from the north side.

The company made a series of adventure films, including Three-fingered Kate (released October 1909), Dick Turpin (released May 1912) and Don Q (released November 1912), all produced by Charles Raymond.

"One day I was in the Rough Lots' second field, where there was a fairly large pond," recounts Arthur. "When I got to this pond I found the film company making a shot for a Wild West film. There was a canoe on the pond and some of the men were dressed as Red Indians. I watched for a time. When several "Red Indians" clambered into the canoe, it capsized and the men were in the muddy pond with only newts for company."

It was an innovative company, the first to venture into foreign location work when it went to the West Indies in 1913 to make several films. In the Charles Weston film, Battle of Waterloo, released July 1913, a squadron of lancers from a nearby barracks was actually hired for the battle scene. Eventually the company moved to a larger studio, formerly a skating rink, at Hoe Street in Walthamstow.

I thank both Stewart Gillies of the Hendon Archive Library and Arthur Hall who were extremely helpful in making material available for my research.

The Archer thanks readers for their historical letters. We hope to publish some of them next month.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

THE ARCHER, 45, MIDHURST AVE, LONDON N10 3EP.

The Editor reserves the right to abbreviate correspondence where necessary.

**Cycling in East Finchley**

Dear Sir,

I would appreciate if you would inform Margaret McLachlan that cycling is not allowed in the lane leading from The Causeway to the tube station [The Archer August issue].

There is a sign on the left hand side of the path to signify this.

Unfortunately, this notice is ignored - usually by adults, thus causing danger to elderly folk, especially those who are not expecting the cyclists and cannot hear them coming down the path.

Also, some parents of young children think it is quite safe for the small children to toddle down there.

Mrs. P. Kennedy  
The Causeway.

**A call to haberdashery!**

Dear Sir,

The needs of our community are well served by the shops along the High Road. However, there is one type of commodity which cannot be obtained in East Finchley.

In the past if an item of haberdashery was required one could take a bus ride to Owen & Owen's department store at North Finchley but since this store has recently closed,

the merchandise in question is not on sale anywhere else.

Would it not be possible for one of our local shops to stock such goods in the future?

A. Walters  
Creighton Avenue.

**Flattery and Phoenix**

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your absolutely first-class August number. Printing format and balance of articles & ads - excellent.

I much appreciate your bringing to the fore the really important local issues, together with other news and articles all of a most interesting nature.

The adverts are not at all offensive: on the contrary you have managed to present them very nicely and I find them v. useful and informative.

May I suggest that you regularly include news of the programmes etc. at our local cinema, the "Phoenix".

I enclose cheque £20.00 to the 'Friends of the Archer'.

Best wishes for your continued success.

Dr. J. Halford  
Western Road.

**Editor's note:**

Well, thank you, Sir, for your money and your praise!

It may surprise some of our readers, but a bit of praise for our efforts - all voluntarily given - goes a long way.

**MONEY MATTERS**

**How independent is your adviser?** by Ian Hart

IT IS essential that financial advice is both competent and independent.

Many people have some sort of money problems. This may be a question of insurance, a pension worry, a matter of tax, an investment query or a need to borrow money to buy goods or property. There is always something that needs consideration.

Money problems have become more complicated because of the explosion in the number of financial products, policies and services available over the last few years. Never before has it been so essential to get the right advice.

Since the Financial Services Act took effect from April 1988, a bona-fide financial adviser should make it clear to an investor right from the start whether he or she is independent or not. If totally independent, they should advise on the products of all the life assurance and pension companies in the markets.

If not, they may belong to one

particular insurance company, and therefore only recommend that company's products.

The significant difference to remember is that if your adviser is independent he must not only give you the best advice, but must also look at the policies of many companies before identifying the best deal for you.

Independent advisers are authorised by FIMBRA (Financial Intermediaries' Managers' and Brokers' Regulatory Association) and by law must display the FIMBRA logo on any advertisements and stationery. Look out for this as a guide for your protection.

Check out your adviser carefully.

To be on the safe side, ask your adviser if he is authorized by FIMBRA and also ask for his authorization number. If you are not happy with any advice given, you can always get a second opinion from another adviser.

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Some accountants and solicitors can also offer financial advice but their levels of competence can vary enormously. Some are well trained as independent financial advisers, but the majority are best suited to providing accountancy or legal advice only.

As a member of this community and as an independent financial adviser, my message is **be careful** where you get your advice.

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**INTRODUCTORY OFFER**



# Brothers celebrate 25 years in the motor accessory trade

by Paul Savill

WHEN the two Chivers brothers opened their car accessory shop in the High Road one Saturday in 1968, it was raining and by the end of the day they had taken exactly £10.

When *The Archer* visited them one Saturday recently they were somewhat more reticent about their takings!

accessory shop. "Indeed," said one customer, "the only thing that seems to be missing among these thousands of bits and pieces is a couch for us to recline on and tell them all!"

A sceptic might say that the giving of such information is all part of this kind of business, but let us face the fact that we have all been to such shops where they do

## THE CHIVERS' CLINIC

That, however, was the only thing they were reticent about. Indeed, the Chivers brothers are so voluble that people flock to them with their car problems.

### CAR CLINIC

All sorts of nasty symptoms are related to brothers Lawrie and Roger: "You see there was this terrible smoke coming out... oil everywhere... funny noises...

not or cannot!

"Mind you," adds Lawrie (at 6ft 7ins the taller of the two), "in so helping we often talk ourselves out of business... one customer came in thinking he wanted a new battery, or starter, or alternator, when all he needed was £1.50 worth of cable."

### RAGS TO RICHES

With an area of 2,000 sqft the Chivers' shop is packed with stock right up to the ceiling. A quick estimate puts the number of different types of items at a staggering 50,000 with an approximate worth of £45,000.

When they set up in business 25 years ago the shop had only £500 worth of stock. It looked so sparse, in fact, that Lawrie used to "pad it out" with empty oil cans.

To launch the business they borrowed £2,000 from an uncle and Lawrie had to sell his beloved



The way it was... Lawrie Chivers prepares to wash windows shortly after shop opening in 1968.

Triumph TR2 for £200. He then jacked in his electrical engineering job and Roger his car repairing job a few months later.

Down the years the brothers have had their share of laughs with the customers.

There is the story of the woman who filled up her windscreen washer with engine oil and wondered why it did not work, and the man who poured three gallons of oil into his engine instead of seven pints and could not understand why it was overflowing.

"Or to cap them all," adds Lawrie, "the customer who wanted

a really good tow rope for his broken-down car - which had no brakes!

### COMMUNITY HELP

The shop recently won the Accessory Shop Award for North London in a competition held by Car Accessory Trader magazine, and the brothers are active members of the East Finchley community.

In conjunction with local police they are providing car maintenance classes for women. The

thinking is that women are safer with well-maintained cars because they do not break down so often and leave them stranded.

In conclusion, Lawrie adds a lament: "The fight to save the High Road is on. The multiples are kidding the shopper that they are cheaper on all things. They are not - only on some of them. So shoppers should always try the small shops for price. Use us or lose us."



Roger and Lawrie Chivers Photo by Julietta Wagman

more a sort of a whine than a screech... occasional banging..."

Perhaps "car clinic" would be more apt a description than car

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**Gardening**  
**Pruning**  
by Paul Savill  
THE season for mists and dehiscent horse chestnuts is here, and now is the time for all good gardeners to groom their shrubs.  
The purpose of pruning at this time of year is simply that: grooming. It is to get rid of the overgrown look and prepare it for wintering.  
Light pruning is what is needed and if care is not taken the result can be an eyesore of a plant, or at least, that was how my neighbour from Lauradale Road described my effort last year when I laid into my dogwood.  
**DOGGONE DOGWOOD!**  
"Dogwoods are grown for their winter bark, so you should only have trimmed the top. All hard cutting should be done in the spring."  
Naturally, he was right. He always is. That is why he is so infuriating. But his pruning advice is worthwhile and here it is:  
Correct timing is essential and a mistake can lead to the loss of a whole year's flowers. Timing, however, depends on individual flowering habits.  
The golden rule is: those plants which flower on the new season's growth are pruned in late autumn or later. Those which flower on the previous year's growth are pruned immediately after flowering.

Rose bushes are a good example of plants which flower on the new season's growth, so soon will be the time to cut them back by about one third. Then cut them hard back in the spring. Another example is the butterflies' favourite, buddleia davidii. Reduce by about a third and cut it hard next spring to two to three buds from the base.  
My neighbour continued: "On the other hand, its relative buddleia alternifolia produces flower sprays on the previous year's shoots. These flowers should be removed as soon as the blooms fade during the summer. This also applies to hydrangeas, but the shrubs benefit from the removal of all stems of three and more years in the spring."  
"Hold on," I interrupted. "This is getting complicated. I thought you were going to keep it simple."  
"It is" he replies, "providing you remember the golden rule."  
There lies the problem. I have repeated it to myself all day and I still get it the wrong way round...  
PS It seems that the only safe time to prune a shrub hard is in the spring. When you do, remember that it will benefit from 5cms (2 ins) thick mulch of garden compost or decayed manure, plus 55gms (2oz/ 2tbsps) per sq.m/yd of general fertilizer such as Growmore.

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## 'The ordeal' - A short story by Len Willcocks

THE man was standing crushed against a mass of bodies, his arms pinned helplessly to his side.

He could not move arms, legs or indeed any part of his anatomy. He was being crushed by the pressure, terrible pressure against his ribs. Surely they would break under the heavy weight on them.

His head ached. He felt weak and dizzy, but he could not fall, held up as he was by the bodies around him.

Now the pressure increased as part of the human mass tried to escape. Around him people muttered and swore softly to themselves. Some joked grimly. Some even smiled and laughed.

He winced as someone stamped on his feet. The heat was unbearable. He felt he could take no more of this.

He looked out from the prison he was in; outside was blackness, terrible darkness.

There was a roaring in his ears. Once again that terrible pressure. Surely, he would be crushed.

Where was he? In some terrible medieval torture chamber... had he died and was entering some dark satanic underworld, perhaps on the way to hell himself, he who had lived a good life without committing any great harm or wrong?

Surely he did not deserve this?

A little later this same man was observed leaving East Finchley underground station, his daily ordeal over.

### Editor's Note:

This short story was inspired by 24 years' commuting on the infamous Northern Line between East Finchley and the Bank!

Our short story writer, Len Willcocks of Park Hall Road, used to travel to the City every day. Len is now retired and tells us that he does not miss travelling one bit. I guess this story sums up the East Finchley commuter's lot all too descriptively!

Please submit your short stories to the Editor.



Photo by Julietta Wagman

## Miakol - the female bodyguard by Cathy Young

'EVERYONE needs to defend themselves sometime in their lives. You never know what may happen and people do things for weird reasons. You must be alert.' Timely advice from 18-year old Michelle, a black belt in Bujutsu karate.

Under the name of Miakol, she operates a bodyguard service for women and children from a flat above the 'Bargain Centre' shop in East Finchley High Road.

She arrived to join her father here a year ago from Limerick, Ireland, and was asked by a friend to help her avoid trouble with a violent boyfriend.

From this grew the idea that she could provide a service for people who were, or felt themselves to be, vulnerable in an increasingly violent society.

'I don't take work from single men.

They seem to have strange ideas about a woman who is prepared to defend herself. Ideas to do with whips and black leather,

I'm definitely not interested in all that.

My concern is for women who are afraid to go out alone at night, up to the West End say, or children who need to be accompanied somewhere or an elderly couple frightened to open the door at night.

I have helped with violent partners or just when a woman or young girl has to stay in the house alone at night.

I don't use brute force. Often you can talk your way out of difficult situations, although sometimes you're given no choice in the end.'

Michelle is a strong, self-confident woman with no illusions about her abilities.

'I'm just like everyone else. Everybody can defend themselves, given the right tactics; and of course you must practise.'

She learned her particular brand of karate, Bujutsu, in Ireland where she participated in various tournaments. It is a form of karate less well known in England.

'I used to go to the Hippodrome a lot and when I first went and people found out I was a black belt, I got a lot of attention and lots of 'calls outside' but I didn't like that scene. I don't feel the need to prove myself.'

Michelle sees self-defence as a form of self-discipline, a taking of control over a situation. She has this advice for women alone.

'Always be on your guard, avoid dark places and short cuts. Above all, when you're walking on your own, especially at night, carry something.

I'm not suggesting a knife or anything like that. You could find yourself arrested. But pepper thrown in the face of a would-be attacker can throw him off his guard long enough for you to regain control of the situation.

If you're alone in the house, never open the door without checking who is there first. At night, get friends to give you a ring before they come round'.

As Miakol (pronounced Michael) she charges a sliding scale according to needs and ability to pay. For some elderly couples she does not charge at all.

## NATURE NOTES

### Vanishing residents

By Graham Hobbs

The summer is nearly over, and as the nights grow longer and the days cooler, many of East Finchley's more familiar residents will disappear.

The question is, where do all those insects go?

Insects have complicated life cycles, and different species spend the winter in different ways. Some as we shall see, even leave altogether! A few familiar examples illustrate various strategies.

As autumn approaches, the aphids that produced live female young all summer now give birth to winged males and females which mate and lay eggs on a particular type of tree. There the eggs survive the winter. Winged individuals emerge in the spring to re-infest our gardens.

### BUTTERFLY STRATEGIES

The caterpillar of the Cabbage White butterfly can go on feeding as late as December in a mild year. More usually they pass the winter as pupae, like their cousins, the Small Whites.

Small Tortoiseshell butterflies hibernate as adults, in secluded crevices, as do Peacocks. Peacocks are heavy sleepers, not emerging until March or April, but Small Tortoiseshells are often seen on sunny days as early as January. Both species are on the wing now.

Earwigs also survive as adults, emerging to lay eggs in the spring. Although regarded as a pest, they are they are unusual in showing maternal care for their

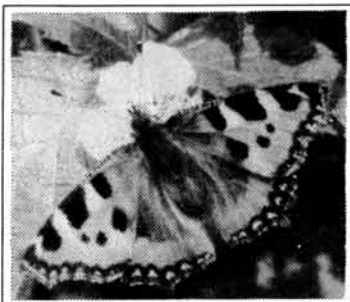


Photo by Graham Hobbs

eggs and young. Ladybirds, as suggested in the nursery-rhyme, are not attentive parents, but they are very gregarious when it comes to hibernation, with dozens and even hundreds being found together.

The more committedly social insects - bees, wasps and ants - also spend the winter as adults. In the case of bumble-bees and wasps, a single individual - a fertilized queen - survives the

winter in a hole in the ground.

Wasps are very evident in September. The hard work of rearing a colony behind them, they freely indulge their 'sweet tooth' making a terrible nuisance of themselves, as any picnicker knows.

Perhaps we should allow them this, as they devour vast numbers of pests during the summer, and will soon die off as the weather cools.

Honey bees, like ants, form longer-lived colonies where tens of thousands of workers survive with the queen. She may live as long as fifteen years. They don't hibernate as such, but stay quietly at home, living off the summer's surplus honey.

### EMIGRATING INSECTS

The most enviable strategy is to leave for somewhere warmer.

The Red Admiral butterfly is amongst those taking a winter break. Although individuals occasionally hibernate, the population is made up mostly of immigrants from the Continent who breed here, their offspring returning in the autumn.

By providing undisturbed winter refuges in our gardens and elsewhere, we can, with a little thought, all play our part in making sure that East Finchley's vanishing residents don't go for good.

## VILLAGE fayre

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## Caught short in the Hebrides

*A long postcard to The Archer from our regular correspondent, Doris*

Going on holiday is often a chance to get away from it all but heading for Ultima Thulae (or the back of beyond) as it used to be called by the Romans, is rather further away than most go.

Or perhaps not all. Our cycling holiday in the Hebrides did not prove quite as unique as we had supposed. Margaret's main disappointment was that everywhere we went, the Germans seemed to get there first.

Far away and sparsely populated as they are, there are many signs of the 20th century to be found on these islands. Even the ferries have public telephones. There are at least two traffic wardens.

Stornoway has beaten East Finchley in already having its own A.P.C. (Automatic public convenience) but there are not many others. Only the larger "townships" are blessed with this amenity and usually a much more basic model, known in Gaelic as a "tea-bag" (or something very like this).

Between Stornoway in the North of Lewis and Tarbert at the South of Harris, there are definitely no "tea-bags" and this is 30 miles. In fact, there is not much of anything apart from a few rocks, heather, peat, bogs and Scotch mist. No walls, no trees, shrubs or bushes.

About halfway along the road, we were both beginning to feel extremely inconvenienced. Onwards and upwards through the mist and rain we pedalled, looking desperately for something offering a bit of cover.

At last it got too much: at the appearance of a slight embankment, the bikes were flung down on the side of the road, and we made a scramble for it. "Oh, hell" I cried "this will have to do" and down came the knickers with great relief. Imagine our dismay as almost immediately there appeared a convoy of vehicles along the road. There had been nothing at all for hours. There we were, crouching in the heather like two strange oversized birds on their nests.

Luckily the convoy passed discreetly onwards and our embarrassment was short-lived. In fact, our inhibitions are disappearing fast. If local drivers are shocked, then perhaps they could campaign for more facilities for tourists.

Why don't **you** advertise in *The Archer*?

# Memorial match has raised over £1,000 for charity

FOOTBALL by Peter Maslen

**A CHARITY match was held at Wingate & Finchley Sports Ground on Sunday 28th August in memory of Sean Williams.**

The occasion was friendly. The match was between Sean's father's pub, 'The George,' and the 'Duke of Cambridge'. The game ended in a 2-2 draw with 'The

George' winning on penalties. About £1,000 was raised for a charity which was chosen by Sean's parents.

### PAST AND PRESENT

Are you, or do you know of, a sports personality living in the area? If there are any sports activities you would wish reported, please let us know.

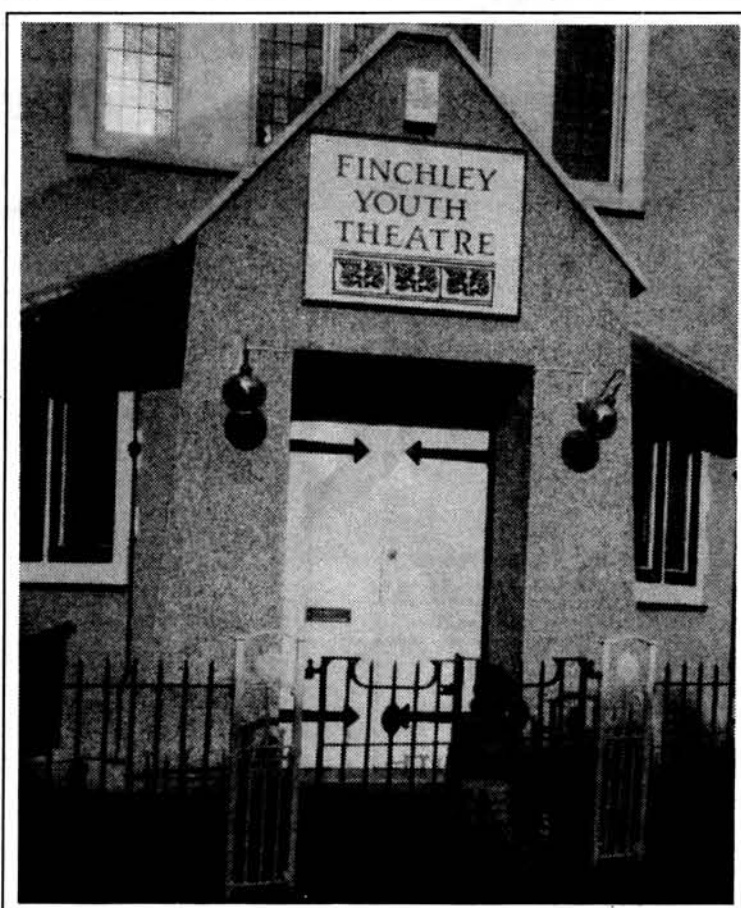


Photo by Malcolm Griffiths

## New drama season

by Malcolm Griffiths

**You don't have to be a teenager to get involved with drama at Finchley Youth Theatre.**

Their new season of events include play rehearsals and 'improvisation' drop in sessions for adults and for young people.

They are good fun and a great

way to socialise. Previous drama experience is not necessary.

There are also daytime 'Parent/Toddler playgroup sessions.

Contact the Theatre group on 081-883 9957 or come along and see for your self at 142 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9ED.

## Art at North Finchley

by Ros Walters

FINCHLEY Art Society is holding its Annual Autumn Exhibition at North Finchley Library from Saturday 18 September for three weeks. Mr Martin Kempson, Controller of Libraries for Barnet, will open the exhibition at 11am on that day.

The exhibition is always very well represented and of a high standard, leaning towards the traditional.

Although it is a North Finchley based society it welcomes new members from all areas who draw, paint or sculpt.

They hold frequent demonstrations and painting sessions offering friendly and helpful advice to any budding artist.

Further information from Mr. H. McMillan, Hon. Sec 081-959 6530.

## FOOD AND DRINK

### Shopping around

by Trisha Williams

My foray down the High Road confirmed that there are good things in store - and shop! - during September.

At the Continental Stores the season of the fig is upon us - green, black, purple and all shades in between. Delicious with Greek yogurt, or as a first course - cross-cut the tops and stuff with slivers of prosciutto and a dash of cream/creme fraiche/yogurt what-have-you.

The shelves are positively groaning with fresh fruit at present - grapes from all over Europe, late strawberries for those who can never have enough.

By the time *The Archer* is in your hands it will be too late for the precious greengage but plums will be in abundance and the 'President' variety is looking particularly good. Finally, English apples are arriving including Worcester and the famous Cox.

Scott's expect to have a good selection of shellfish as we are

back to an R in the month. Scottish and Welsh mussels are coming in - the cultivated Welsh ones are a boon for those who hate mussel-scrubbing! For fish lovers, mackerel is at its best at this time of year and is very good value for money.

Philip Barretta will have a new range of fresh pasta dishes with unusual fillings (artichoke hearts, asparagus and pumpkin) as well as fresh pizzas and his home-made sauces. (The pesto sauce, alas, will finish at the end of the month as the basil bushes become fawly!). The new season's sun-dried tomatoes will be arriving shortly - an excellent lunch-time snack with ciabatta, available daily.

And if you do not want to cook, this is an excellent time of year to go for the 'cold table' option - a sample selection of the best available goodies served with fresh-baked bread and rolls from Chorak's extensive range.

### Oriental Salmon

For this recipe you will need salmon escalopes - which are cut lengthwise - rather than steaks which are cut across the fish.

(Scott's will cut them for you if you explain what you require). Unless you are going to eat the fish immediately, have the skin left on as it will help retain the juices. Do, however, remove the skin before cooking them - you will need to place the fillets on a layer of foil to grill them so that you can lift them off without any breakages.

### For 4 people:

- 4 x 6oz Escalope of Salmon
- 2 Spring Onions
- Fresh Ginger
- 1 Lemon
- 1 tablespoon of Five Spice Powder
- 1 tablespoon of Soy Sauce
- Sea Salt

Preheat the grill until it is very hot. Peel the ginger and chop the spring onions and blend in a liquidiser until they become a paste. Zest and juice the lemon and add to the spring onions and ginger mixture, together with the five spice powder and soy sauce; blend again briefly. Salt to taste.

Spread the paste on the escalopes and grill until just cooked. Most people cook fish far too long - for these 2-3 minutes at most.

This is excellent served with new potatoes boiled in their skins and some French beans topped with crispy fried breadcrumbs.

Bon Appetit!

## Finchley Showcase

**AVENUE HOUSE** 1st September - 9th October  
September Wednesdays at 2.00pm  
Victorian Afternoons in the drawing room.  
15th & 19th Sept: Victorian songs & melodrama, by The Guild Players & Old Bull Afternoon Arts Club.  
22nd Sept: Come and give your reminiscences of Avenue House. Admission £1.50  
**QUAKER MEETING HS** 58 Alexandra Grove N12. 4th Oct: 8.00pm. Turning Heads Poetry Group present music and movement. FREE.

**WOODSIDE PARK CLUB** Southover N12. 9th Oct: 8.00pm. Theatre Evening by Drama Groups of the Borough of Barnet (ring 207-2114 for tickets)  
**N. FINCHLEY LIBRARY:**  
1st Sept - 15th Oct: Historic Photographs of Finchley and Friern Barnet.  
18th Sept to 15th Oct: Finchley Art Society's annual exhibition.  
**CHURCH END LIBRARY:**  
20th Sept: 8.00pm. Talk on "Metropolitan Police"  
**EAST FINCHLEY LIBRARY:**  
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