



# In Memory By Len Willcocks

Brian Keeley, who died aged 71 after a long illness, was an active parishioner of St Mary's RC Church.



Brian Keeley

The funeral Mass for Brian was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and celebrated by four former St Mary's priests to a packed church of relatives and friends.

Brian who leaves behind, his wife Veronica, three daughters, a son and many grandchildren was a resident of East Finchley for forty three years.

He was a tireless worker for the community both in his church work and hid work with contact, the East Finchley Neighbourhood group based in Church Lane.

Brian, you are greatly missed by us all. R.I.P.

# Church News

**Churches Together in Finchley are planning a pre-election meeting with our local candidates from all the parties.**

This meeting, open to all, will give residents a good opportunity to question them on both national and local issues.

The meeting will be held at St Margaret's URC (United Reformed Church) Victoria Avenue, N3 (Finchley Central) on Sunday 20 April at 4pm.

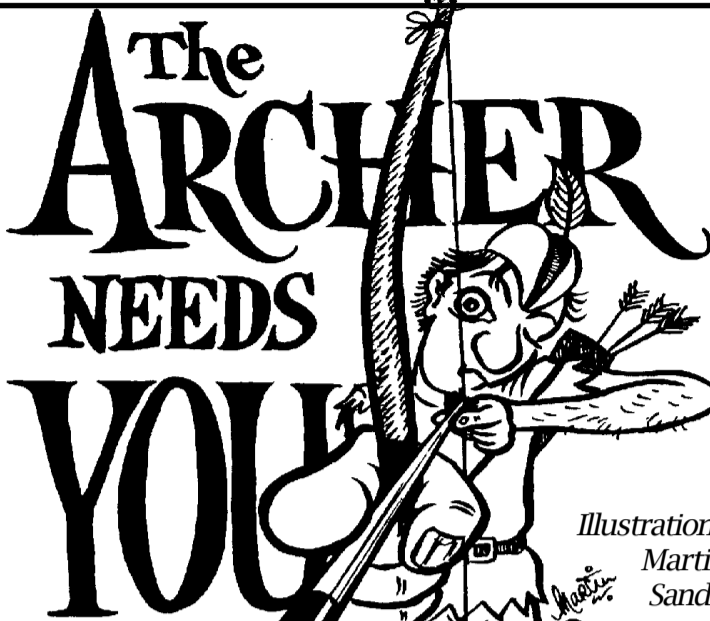


Illustration by Martin B Sandhill

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# Our Days Of The Comet

by Len Wilcocks

Ever since I was a boy and read the story by H.G. Wells "In the days of the Comet" I have been fascinated by space and comets. So the news that the Comet "Hale Bopp" has entered our solar system, the brightest and biggest comet to be seen for 4,000 years, is very exciting. The last time the comet was visible to us was 2,000 BC when it was seen by the ancient Egyptians.

The comet came closest to earth at the end of March when it was just a mere 125 million miles away. Two amateur astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp discovered this comet two years ago hence it is now known as the Hale Bopp comet.

On a clear evening it was one of the most spectacular sights to be seen in the heavens for decades. Scientists and astronomers around the world

have been studying it hoping it will unlock some of the secrets of the universe and give us a clue as to how planets are formed from dust particles and condensation.

It is now believed that comets are cosmic rubble left over since the birth of the solar system just 4.5 billion years ago.

It's sudden appearance at this time has raised many questions and caused many reactions. There has been the usual

spate of doomsday prophecies some saying it could be a cosmic warning to mankind that a new age is coming. Be that as it may, it has been one of the most spectacular sights and should still be visible to the naked eye in the coming weeks.

Look out for it, evening or early morning is the best time for as in the late H.G. Wells novel we are indeed living now "In the days of the Comet".

## RSPCA small animal Clinic

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### PLEASE NOTE

As from 26th March 1997  
Wednesday's Clinic will start at 7.00pm

### Neutering of male cats. Special all in price £15.

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Surgery times:  
Monday 6.30pm to 7.30pm  
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We will also give assistance with the cost of neutering your pets if you are a pensioner or on income support.  
We will help you make all the arrangements when you visit our clinic.

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## Hospice Support

New members are needed by the North London Hospice for their Support Group to assist with plans for fund-raising events. Members meet every six to eight weeks. For information call 0181 346 6818.

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Do you enjoy helping others?  
Could you give advice?  
Are you a sympathetic listener?  
Can you spare two and a half hours a week?

Training given  
If you are interested contact the co-ordinator on 0181 444 6265.

**CONTACT** CONTACT, the East Finchley Neighbourhood Group, who support the elderly and housebound in the area, are appealing for **VOLUNTEERS** with an hour or two to spare to help with shopping and odd jobs. Expenses will be paid.  
If you are willing to help a neighbour, please telephone co-ordinator Christine George on 0181 444 1162.