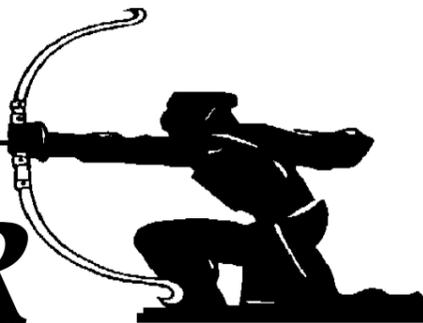


THE ARCHER



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A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.

SEE THE CENTRE PAGES FOR THE EAST FINCHLEY FESTIVAL REVIEW

Singing in the Rain

Shame about the weather, but despite the storms and rain the 1997 East Finchley Festival was a success, although a rather sodden one.

High points included Mickie Driver quite literally "singing in the rain", the enthusiastic under eleven's refusing to let the weather get in the way of the game of football and that refuge from the worst of the storms; the beer tent.

Once again The Archer was there and we, like everyone else had a wet but great time.

See you next year!

Turn to the centre pages for our full review.



Festival Triumph - local MP Rudi Vis joins in the celebrations with Holy Trinity, winners of the five-a-side football competition. Photo: David Tupman

McLibel verdict

By Len Willcocks

In what was described by the UK press as a "Pyrrhic victory", McDonald's was awarded £60,000 damages in the High Court recently.

Within hours of the conclusion of the longest libel trial ever, protesters gathered outside the Hamburger giant's European HQ in the High Road East Finchley.

The case cost McDonald's more than £10 million in legal bills, which can never be recovered from the two defendants. Mr Morris, and ex-postman, and Miss Helen Steele, part time barmaid, are penniless and can never pay up. Now they plan to carry their fight to the European Court of Human Rights.

Many of the accusations made in the anti McDonald's leaflets distributed by the defendants were found to be false.

Lightly grilled

The judge ruled that it was not true the company was destroying the rainforest; not true that it was causing starvation in the Third World; not true it discriminates against black employees and not true that it created litter.

But McDonalds was criticised for putting pressure on children and their parents in its advertising.

Judge Bell said "Advertising and marketing is in large part directed at the children with a view to pressurising or pestering their parent to take them to McDonalds." It was also found that staff were highly underpaid: a problem which affects workers throughout the catering trade.

After the verdict the UK president, Paul Preston, stated that he "did not want to bankrupt Mr Morris and Miss Steele, but this is not a matter of costs, it is a matter of truth."

Small fries

Although McDonald's have won the case they have not been able to suppress the protests. Over two million leaflets have been distributed and many people perceive the case as a victory for the two campaigners who defended themselves against highly paid lawyers.

Grave robbers

A man tending his mother's grave was viciously struck on the head with a rock and had his jacket containing his wallet with £50 in it stolen.

The 55 year old man suffered a three inch wound on his head.

This incident happened on a Sunday morning recently in the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery in the High Road.

The attacker was described as stockily built, bare chested and wearing white jogging trousers.

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