



"Sophie" - the opening act. Photo by Toni Morgan

## The Full Monty in East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

A century ago the grand building called "The Chestnuts" in The Walks, N2 which now houses East Finchley Constitutional Club, used to be a businessmen's club. The past founders of that club must have been turning in their graves at the thought of a stripper appearing there, but present male members were not unaffected either. A hard fight within the Entertainment Committee resulted in a special night being organised, not for the men but for the women associate members of the club.

### Not a One Off

A reciprocal Stag Night had to be agreed, thus allowing a Ladies' Night, with all male performers providing the action. Standing room only proved how popular the event turned out to be. The opening act featured drag artist Sophie AKA six-footer Shane Wheeler, who went down well with the audience and who had an impressive singing voice too. Not quite the same can be said for singer Dave Dawson, who did not always hit the right note, which is perhaps the reason for him encouraging everyone to join in. Or maybe he was nervous and used that, plus his sweet smile, to cover it.

### Back to Basics

Not much cover was left in the next act, performed by stripper Private 69! Semi-clad in black leather, artfully designed to reveal his best aspects, he proceeded to peel off bit by bit with loud encouragement from the audience. He paraded amongst them, strutting his stuff, before selecting one or two to take up on stage as under-cover agents (those who were there will know what I mean!). Baby

oil, shaving cream and a razor also necessitated audience involvement. The act was performed with the right amount of humour, not that the women needed much encouragement to laugh, even though it was a bit too long.

### Mane course

Another strip act called Mane Attack were due on after the interval, but by then this reporter had made her excuses and left. Well, Coronation Street was on late that night!

The Club offers other sorts of entertainment throughout the year. There are seasonal children's parties and fun events; for adults there is pool, snooker, bingo and a bar, which you might need after line dancing on Tuesday nights (from 8 - 9 pm).

If you are interested in joining, phone the secretary on 020 8883 3134.

**Footnote:** THE ARCHER was saddened to hear of the death of Tom Baker recently. Mr Baker was a trustee and former director of the Constitutional Club. He was 75-years-old. THE ARCHER sends its condolences to his friends and family.

## Advent 2000

A Millennium poem by Alan F Smith

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
on Hogmanay two thousand?  
And Bethlehem's bright-starred birth  
be never brought to mind?

Should Nero's gladiators, lacerate in faith,  
be forgot like some modern TV game?

No, we don't want that again.

Should that first Millennium's end  
be not recalled; nor we appalled  
by Goth and Vandal, Visigoth,  
quenching in Dark Night  
all Augustan light?

No, we don't want this again.

Can we fight Black Death's blight  
and Death Camp's pain again?  
No, not with cryogenic's tearless arts,  
nor by Crusading carnage 'gainst  
those of different Faith and Calendar.

No, we can't have this again.

For the Sake of Auld Lang Syne  
Let's not choose a Strangelove death  
but sooner plan a Rebirth worth  
the touch of Michaelangelo  
and Leonardo's smile  
to reanimate our severed heads the while.

This way we may still-born make  
those mammoth domes to Mammon, still planned,  
And tak a Cup o' Kindness yet  
For Auld Lang Syne.



Some of The Archer team with Angie at the Saturday morning meeting in Madden's. Photo by Erini Rodis.

## The Archer's coming home

By David Hobbs

After almost a year away THE ARCHER has returned to its spiritual home at Madden's Ale House on the High Road.

The paper held its regular Saturday morning meetings there for many years and only moved out when the builders moved in to extend the pub. Now, with the building work completed, we are delighted to be back.

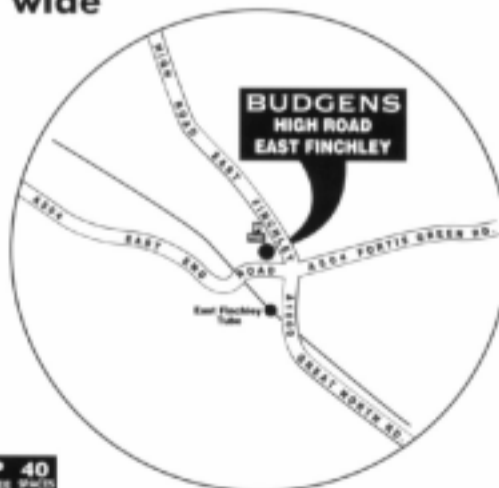
If you would like to get involved with THE ARCHER please come along and see us any Saturday morning from 11 am when you will be assured of a warm welcome and maybe even a pint or two!

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