



Market update

It's looking more and more likely that Barnet will have one by the spring.

There are now more than 80 of these markets in Britain. Forget about invading supermarket giants! The markets give you the chance to buy fresh fruit, vegetables, salads, juice, cheese, herbs, sausages, wine, eggs, bread, honey, etc., - much of which is organic - direct from the farmers.

Ronald Saxon, founder of the North London Campaign for Safe Food, is working with Nina Planck, who has already opened three farmers' markets in London this year, - and the latest news is very promising. *THE ARCHER* will keep you informed!

If you would like to know more about the NLCSF, and its campaign for fresh, safe food at reasonable prices, please contact Ronald Saxon on 020 8446 0131.

Get Equipped

By Diana Cormack

By now much of your "back to school" equipment bought in the summer will need replacing. Whether it's used up, worn out, lost, nicked, or maybe because you just have a better idea of what you want, you don't have to leave East Finchley to get it.

Universal Office Equipment at 120 High Road has an impressive range for you to choose from. They also have some tempting special offers, like the Pilot gel pens or their new line Zebra pen which, as you are writing, produces different colours. There are plenty of pens and pencils, alongside erasers and Tippex to correct your mistakes plus all sorts of things to stick with, attach to or cover over.

Art students can order portfolios in specific sizes for next day delivery. Any student can find paper, files, folders, document wallets, etc. in a variety of shades and materials. If you spend more than £5 on their Europa range, you get a free blow-up fish mirror!

For your convenience, there are swipe machines in the store for

which cards are obtainable at the Customer Service Desk. For a returnable deposit of £1 you can charge up credits on your UOE Service Card, which can be used by all the family. These cards can also be used on their new digital photocopiers and their ISDN Internet Service, which they claim is "the best for miles around". It is the fastest one you can get so, being quicker, it works out cheaper! PCs cost 10p a minute and there is black and coloured laser printing with free scanning.

It's worth taking a look around Universal Office Equipment just to see what they have on sale, whether you're a child or an adult and well worth checking out the vintage typewriters in the glass floor display!

Property website gets 1800 visitors in first month!

Clearly an indication that a vast number of people are using the Internet in their search for a home.

Springfield Properties, of Aylmer Parade, has put together a complete package for house and flat-hunters including local information on schools and transport, up to the minute property listings, a comprehensive guide for first time landlords and links to useful related sites. This website can be found at www.springfield-properties.co.uk.

Reader Offer

Springfield Properties are offering a discounted rate to the readers of *THE ARCHER*, who are either selling or letting out their property in North London. All instructions received will qualify for the following discounted rates: sales 1% and lettings 7%.

They offer accompanied viewings, extensive marketing, negotiations with purchaser or tenant and at least weekly feedback, all on a 'no sale/let, no fee' basis. Contact Frances Eakins on 020 8340 5678 or e-mail springfield@email.com

LETTERS

High Flyer

Dear Editor

Ranulph Trevor-Roper

I have responded to Ole Jorn Alfsen's plea in the September/October Archer for information about Ranulph Trevor-Roper and hope that the following will interest your readers.

Flight Lieutenant Trevor-Roper was a gallant airman who was on a second tour of operations. I have read that he was renowned on his squadron for his rich store of cockney stories which he told with extremely colourful phrases in an upper-class Oxford accent! The Stirling four-engined bomber was, by 1945, an under-powered aircraft and to fly one at low height to drop supplies to resistance fighters was an extremely hazardous task.

One of the Trevor-Roper brothers became a well-known ophthalmologist.

His father, Hugh Trevor-Roper, was a renowned historian whose classic book "The Last Days of Hitler" became a best seller. He became Lord Dacre, so he himself, or his family, should be contactable through the House of Lords. The library of the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon will have details of the other airmen who were killed in the Stirling crash in Norway in 1945. Also in the museum is the wreckage of the Gladiator fighter that was recovered from a fjord by the Norwegians. It had fallen through the ice when the Germans bombed the lake.

**Jack Davey
Squ.Ldr.RAFVR (retired)
Abbots Gardens, N2.**

Selective coverage

Dear Editor

Much as I enjoy your paper, I must take issue with Naomi Burgess' piece about selective schools in your last issue. I feel strongly that you should give a platform to the other side of the argument.

Briefly, as you say elsewhere in the paper, many people move into Barnet because of the excellent reputation of its schools, and that undoubtedly includes the grammar schools. A lot of East Finchley children must go to these grammar schools. Barnet Council put a great deal of energy into supporting Henrietta Barnett recently when its building was under threat.

There is plenty of chance for bright children to come into the grammar schools later than 11,

and often quite large new entries at the 6th form.

The point is that different children need different things, and there should be no reason to call this failure for any. But to deny differences and attack the specialist approach of the grammar schools because it isn't right for all is an attack on quality in the name of crude egalitarianism. Because not all can have something, because it would not suit all, therefore no one should have it. Is that it?

I hope you will commission a fuller feature response to put the alternative case.

**Yours sincerely
Monica Lanman
Abbots Gardens, N2.**

Editor's note: See our schools feature on page 4 for both sides of the argument.

Farmers' market

Dear Editor

Re: letter on p7 of August 1999 issue, Organic Market.

Is there any news on an organic market or even non-organic, where we can buy directly from the farmers?

Also, surprised there is no mention of Church Lane and Market Place as this is where the actual old village of East Finchley was before most of the High Road etc was built.

More old pictures on the site would be nice, but it's good anyway, thanks for your efforts, I'm sure lots of people find it all very interesting.

**Cheers,
Royston.
kf.fraser@virgin.net**

Editor's note: See our update (left) for the latest news on the farmers' market.

Turpin truths

Dear Editor

East Finchley residents and *ARCHER* readers may be interested to know the following information regarding the infamous highwayman Dick Turpin. I obtained the data from a book entitled "The English Highwayman" by Peter Haining. Dick Turpin was born in 1705

in a small Essex village called Hempstead (not Hampstead!). His father, John Turpin, was the landlord of the Bell Inn public house. (Apparently it is still there today, now known as the Rose & Crown).

He never owned a horse called Black Bess. He never made the legendary ride from London to York. This was, in fact, achieved by another highwayman William "Swift Nicks" Nevison. He made the journey in 15 hours; purely to have an alibi for a robbery committed in Kent on the same day... Dick Turpin wasn't even born at the time!

He was not the romantic Robin Hood figure of legend. By all accounts, he was a vicious thief, who often roasted his victims alive to reveal whereabouts of their money.

Most of his robberies were committed in Essex, Hertfordshire and Epping Forest.

He was hanged in York in 1739 aged 34. He moved north simply to avoid the "heat" down south.

The chapter on Dick Turpin makes no mention whatever that he committed robberies on Hampstead Heath or Finchley Common, although it does not specifically deny that he was ever there.

Long after his death, his life was glamorised by two writers - Daniel Defoe (who wrote "Robinson Crusoe") and W. Harrison Ainsworth. Interesting?

**Yours sincerely
Mick the Match
Park Hall Road, N2.**

Famous Names

Dear Editor

You wished to know of any famous people having lived in East Finchley.

When we moved here over 35 years ago, into Summerlee Avenue, Peter Hope the musician, who does a lot of musical arrangements for the BBC Concert Orchestra, lived here in this road near the Cherry Tree Wood end.

Also, George Alagiah, the BBC news reader, lived next door to us until he got married, his father still does live here.

**Yours sincerely
Edna Winecor
Summerlee Avenue, N2.**

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