



# Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

## A First

Whilst reading the Shell Book of Firsts recently, I came across the following entry:

"It was not until 1906 that fresh milk, untreated except for pasteurisation began to be sold in bottles in Britain. The pioneer in this case being Ernest Lane of the Manor Farm Dairy, East Finchley."

## Underground Failure

East Finchley underground station was shut down for some time on 19 August. Normal service was suspended for most of the day. The problems started with a points failure in Camden Town and spread across much of the system because of unrelated faults.

## New magazine

A new magazine "Suburb People" is about to be published in the Garden Suburb. It leads with an article entitled "The magic of East Finchley High Road" which manages to mention practically every business on the High Road in very appreciative terms.

## Kavanagh QC

Local actor and artist, Jonathan Adams, had a starring role in Kavanagh QC on 20 August.

Please send items suitable for this column to Noel Lynch at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, N2, Tel 020 8883 0234 or e-mail noellynch@lineone.net

# Volunteers wanted

The Homes Project needs the support of local volunteers, who can spare some time on a regular basis, and businesses willing to contribute expertise in the areas of security, plumbing, carpentry, glazing, gas and electrical work.

The project, a new initiative supported by Barnet Council's Agenda 21 Strategy is managed by the Outreach manager at East Finchley Advice Service. It aims to provide support and advice on money management, energy conservation and home safety to elderly and vulnerable people in the local area. It offers a free home visiting service to identify areas for improvement and will arrange for volunteers to carry out minor repairs and maintenance work. It can also help with applications for grants and discounts for energy conservation measures.

If you are able to help, the Homes Project can be contacted via the Outreach Manager at East Finchley Advice Service, 42 Church Lane, East Finchley, N2 8DT, Tel 020 8883 3164.

## Thanks to The Alex

Margaret and John Murphy and their customers at the Alexandra pub in Church Lane have raised £278.16 for Beacon Lodge mother and baby unit in Eastern Road.

The managers of Beacon Lodge, Kea Byer & Mairead O'Sullivan, would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who contributed and say, "As a charity we welcome such donations to be able to purchase various items that are necessary to run such a unit. It is nice to get local support and, as always, Margaret and John were willing to help."

# Why a Zebra?

By Daphne Chamberlain

Many people were disappointed to learn that the planned pedestrian crossing in Fortis Green will be a zebra. A pelican, because it has traffic lights, is often thought to be safer.

Traffic engineers throughout the country maintain that this is not necessarily so. Safety records for both types of crossing are pretty much the same - with zebras probably scoring marginally better.

Pelicans are the more practical option in areas like town centres, where there is a constant flow of both traffic and pedestrians. In very busy conditions, lights will prevent chaos. In a road like Fortis Green, how-

ever, a zebra should be more effective.

Another advantage is that a zebra can be installed much sooner. We can expect to get the Fortis Green crossing before Christmas. A pelican might well not be in operation until the next financial year, as its lights would be paid for, supplied and maintained by a London-wide body: the Traffic Control Systems Unit. Barnet, on the other hand, will have sole responsibility for a zebra.

# Where there's muck there's brass!

By Martin Earl

East Finchley resident, Tony Coren, was the lucky first prize winner of £500 in the College Farm Trust Appeal raffle on Sunday 1 August. But this was no ordinary raffle: Each ticket was allocated a square in a field into which five donkeys were let loose. The first square into which a donkey did its business became the winning square.

Unlike most raffles it took an hour and a half to identify the winning ticket. But it only goes to show that where there's muck there's money, especially as Tony generously donated his winnings back to the College Farm Trust.

The College Farm Trust has been set up to raise money to buy the farm land from the De-



Tony Coren (left) with Rags, the winning donkey and Jane and Chris Ower, the tenant farmers. Photo courtesy of The Press

partment of Transport which intends to sell it by April next year. Donations to help save the farm for future generations can be sent to College Farm Trust, College Farm, Fitzalan Road, Finchley, N3 3PG, or telephone 020 8349 3811.

College Farm, in Fitzalan Road, is open every day and there are special events on the first Sunday of each month from 1pm to 6pm.

# Pets, thieves and graffiti

Thieves who broke into Finchley Pets in Lincoln Parade between Friday night 6 August and Saturday morning 7 August threw a brick through the glass window. They took a charity box for spastics charity SCOPE and the Cats Protection League, aquarium air pumps, electric filters, cat flaps, choke chains, dog leads and a variety of cat food.

Shop owner Mike Ryan said: "It is so disheartening. I have only been running the shop for 18 months and only recently gave it a complete facelift.

"The thieves must have known what they were doing as they seemed to know what to take. But luckily the pets were unharmed.

"I had only just painted the outside and when I came into the shop on Sunday to feed the kittens the front had been daubed in graffiti.

"It is going to take a long time for the insurance to come through and as a small business it is crippling."

Anyone with information should contact police, who have been informed.

# Barnet farmers' market

Following the success of the Farmers' Market at Islington, similar markets are opening at Swiss Cottage and Notting Hill. The good news for us is that

we may soon have one in Barnet. See next month's ARCHER for details.

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