



Photo: John Larimer

Goodbye to The George

East Finchley has one less watering hole. The George public house in Market Place has finally closed. As reported some months ago, it is to be redeveloped as a block of flats.

Evacuees' reunion

By Daphne Chamberlain

Several readers have asked for more news about commemorative events planned for World War II evacuees, which will take place on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

Here is a rundown on the details: **Date: - Friday, 3 September, 1999.**

Itinerary: 10 am: Meet at Horse Guards Parade.

11.30 am: Arrive at Westminster Abbey for commemoration service. NB Only people with tickets from the Evacuees' Reunion Association will be admitted to the Abbey, but the service will be relayed to Westminster Central Hall (Methodist Central Hall), just across the road. People without tickets should go there. Friends and relations will be welcome.

12 noon - 1 pm: The service.

1 - 3 pm: Lunch break. The Central Hall has a cafeteria and coffee bar.

3 - 4.30 pm: "The Story of the Evacuation" told in words, music and pictures in the Great Hall of Westminster Central Hall. Admission by ticket only, but tickets (which will cost £5) can be bought at the door.

The Evacuees' Reunion Association can be contacted at Goodbodys Mill, 17 Albert Road, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 6JD. An exhibition about World War II evacuees can be seen at The Reminiscence Centre, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA, until October 1999.

The Centre, which is opposite Blackheath BR station, is open from Monday to Saturday, 10 am - 5.30 pm, and admission is free. There is wheelchair access, a café and a shop. School visits can be arranged.

Three for the reading list: "No Time to Wave Goodbye" by Ben Wicks, "I'll Take That One" by Martin Parsons and "Waiting To Go Home" by Martin Parsons (ISBN 1901292053) - Published this month.

Remember - *THE ARCHER* would be very interested to hear any evacuee stories or memories from our readers.

Legacy helps local cats

Last year when Joan Farsby, who lived in Cherry Tree Road, died she left a generous legacy for the benefit of the Small Animals Clinic in Park Road, which is run by the Finchley and District Branch of the RSPCA.

This money has been spent on re-furbishing the building and to buy new equipment for the clinic. All who work there are delighted with the changes.

Thank you

The branch owes a big thank you to Laura Denman, the clinic manager, who did a lot of the work herself and supervised the professionals we brought in.

After due consideration the committee decided to finance a cat neutering initiative, offering vouchers which covered 90% of the veterinary costs, to owners who brought their pets to the clinic.

Successful scheme

This scheme commenced on 1 May and was intended to run

for one month. However such was its popularity it was extended to the end of June. Over 130 vouchers were given out.

Not having kittens

Many of the cats brought in had been strays before finding a new home so had never been seen by a vet before. They were vaccinated and some were treated for other conditions such as flea infestation.

We intend to repeat the scheme next year and hope that this successful enterprise will play a small part in reducing the large number of unwanted kittens that are born each year. All year round we will pay half the cost of neutering your pet if you are in receipt of benefit or are un-waged.

Litter Pick - A Good Experience

By Martin Earl

Cherry Tree Woods is 15 bags of rubbish lighter after a litter pick held on Sunday morning 4 July. The event was organised by the Friends of Cherry Tree Woods as a part of Barnet's Environment Week. A dozen or so volunteers donned gloves, grabbed extended arms and green bags - all provided by Barnet Council - and wandered here and there among the bushes in search of debris. It wasn't difficult to find - bottles, cans and wrappers were the usual fare; but the most valuable find was made by Mary Atkinson - a tartan rug in perfect condition! (It was later left in the park in case the rightful owner returned. By the next day it had gone.)

The Friends wish that the Council was a little more timely - in good time - with its emptying of the litter bins in the park - so that the rubbish in them

does not spill out into the woods. And they wished that the 15 bags they had collected on the day had been picked up earlier than the following Thursday.



Three well prepared volunteers set out to rid the park of litter. Photo: Martin Earl



Mary Atkinson proudly showing off her "find" - a perfectly good red tartan rug.

Photo: Martin Earl.

However, these concerns aside, one participant said that wandering in the woods, lost in ones thoughts and looking for rubbish, was an almost therapeutic experience. Perhaps you have to do it to believe it!

If you would like to volunteer, the next litter pick will be on 23rd October as a part of the Tidy Britain Campaign. And if you would like to find out more about the Friends - who also do tidying sessions on a more regular basis - contact Anne Lalaguna, the membership secretary, on 020 8883 3846.

Welcome to the 1990s!

By David Hobbs

Credit and debit cards are everywhere. Nowadays there is next to nothing you cannot buy with plastic. It does not matter if it is Visa, MasterCard, Switch, Delta or Amex, or if you are paying for the shopping or a three-piece suite, you put your card down and it is done. You can do it everywhere, from Lands End to John O'Groats. Where there are people, there is plastic.

The credit card boom has been going on for the last couple of decades, gradually expanding from being something that a few had and most envied to a situation where paying by cash is frowned upon in certain establishments. In fact, it is hard to conceive of anywhere that does not accept credit or debit cards. Hence you can understand *THE ARCHER*'s surprise at the latest announcement from Barnet Council.

Eventually

Less than six months before the end of the century and a good twenty years since the credit card boom began, Barnet Council has now caught up with the rest of the world and decided to accept plastic. As of July all libraries and six sports and leisure centres

will be 'geared up' to accept cards. Next on the list will be the two cashier's offices and both register offices. This means that, in the future you will not need to fork out cash to hire sports grounds, pay swimming pool charges, your rent, rates, council tax or most library charges.

Welcome change

The Chair of the Resources Executive Committee, Councillor Danish Chopra, was described in the press release as having 'welcomed' the changes and said that people expect modern councils to provide modern services.

Most people would agree with that and possibly add that it was about time too.

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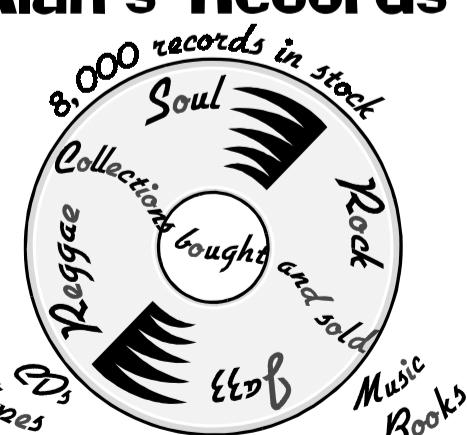
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