



English in East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

Just after you pass the East Finchley Village sign on the High Road, going south from the library, you might notice a place which has become familiar to many foreign visitors. Yet you could be forgiven if you didn't see it, for a more discreet sign announces its presence.

"East Finchley School of English" has been welcoming students for more than a decade through doors that are well used to being opened to people from all walks of life. For the school occupies part of the Methodist Church building at 197 High Road.

Christina Lockie, the Director of Studies, told me that 90% of the students are females between the ages of 18-25 and employed locally as au pairs. However, they do teach some men and the general age range has been

known to reach 75 years!

Pupils come from almost twenty countries and they learn about the school by word of mouth, from the families who employ them, from au pair agencies and from the Yellow Pages.

Generally they stay here from September to June, when they sit their exams before flying home. They may choose from five Cambridge English courses. The school offers courses in Business and Commercial English, and English for Tourism, as well as a course in British literature. There is also preparation for Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Family atmosphere

A mixed teaching staff of five deals with eighty to a hundred mostly part-time students. Christina tries to run it as she would like it to be run if she were studying there, with a friendly family atmosphere. A

variety of outings are organised, including cinemas, theatres and the good old British pub! For the Christmas gathering the students prepare a wide range of national dishes and delicacies. Former pupils return to show off spouses or offspring, and at least one couple is known to have met there and subsequently got married!

If you are interested in any of the school's courses or if you could accommodate a paying student, contact Christina Lockie on 020 7794 9410 for details.

But It's All Over Now!

By Diana Cormack
East Finchley has had its fair share of famous inhabitants, but I was amazed to learn that one of the most famous rock stars of all time once actually lived in the High Road. To be precise, he lived in a flat above Bankcroft Garage (now The Furniture and Bed Shop) at number 156, on the corner of Huntingdon Road.

The owner, Roy Westbrook, took over in 1967 whilst the embryo star had moved out at the end of 1966. When he came back to retrieve something from the flat, Roy couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. A crowd quickly gathered and he heard them gasping in awe and disbelief, "It's Mick Jagger"!

Do you know of any other famous people who lived in East Finchley? If you do then please let *THE ARCHER* know so we can all enjoy it.



Bill Markham of East Finchley Neighbourhood Association. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

The EFNA Tradition

By Daphne Chamberlain

Back in the 1970s, inhabitants of East Finchley roasted a whole sheep, and carried it in procession down the High Road to Cherry Tree Wood.

Fellow-veggers please don't turn the page! These people were starting that great tradition - the East Finchley Festival.

Actually, Bill Markham says it all began with traffic problems around Church Lane, Leslie Road and Leopold Road. The area had become an east-west rat-run, prompting Barnet Council to contact local residents about plans to improve their environment.

Bill, a 91 year-old former plumber, who has lived in Leopold Road for 73 years, told me about the reaction. Public meetings in Avenue House and East Finchley Library were packed out - with standing room only in the library hall.

Out of this came a voluntary Steering (no puns intended) Committee, which organised a traffic count and a door-to-door survey of all houses in the area. Bill chuckles at the memory. "The Council didn't believe how many cars were involved, but when they did their own count

they found we had actually under-estimated. So they made Church Lane one-way."

The volunteers formed the East Finchley Neighbourhood Association - known as EFNA. Councillors, police, doctors and local historians came along to meetings, which were still held in the library. Then Barnet found them their own base - in Church Lane. 'Contact', East Finchley's Neighbourhood Scheme, is there today.

"We scrounged carpets and furniture", says Bill. "And we were given a rotary printing machine." That meant they could produce the EFNA newsletter, which he sees as the forerunner of *THE ARCHER*.

Then came the Festival. "We must have bought up all the bread and rolls and ice-cream in East Finchley and Muswell Hill. We had good support from the shops. One shop would always give us a jar of sweets for the raffle."

And what about the sheep? "We'd set up a workshop in an empty store belonging to Ron Bowers from the carpet shop. We made a kind of glorified drum from a barrel, and paraded the sheep down the High Road, with a police escort for the procession."

Footnote: - EFNA played a significant part in the development of East Finchley. As Bill says, a lot of people were involved. If you have any memories or comments you would like to add to his account, please let us know.

Getting Wired

PART 8: Steaming Java

Still on images - how to add those rollovers (menu buttons that change when you pass the mouse over them). You can use Java or JavaScript but the approaches are quite different.

JavaScript code, like HTML, is written in plain text directly into HTML files and interpreted by the browser as it is read in. It is written anywhere in the document within `<SCRIPT> ..</SCRIPT>` tags and can be triggered by code placed inside HTML tags which detect mouse actions over them. Separate *.js files can be created for use by multiple web pages. The initiating code for rollovers is placed in the anchor tag `<A>` preceding the button to be rolled and could read:

```
onMouseOver = "rollon('roll1') onMouseOut = "rollout('roll1')"
```

Where rollon and rollout refer to detailed code placed elsewhere for the two situations. Include in the `` tag of the button a unique reference name (name = "roll1" in this case) and the image dimensions. It is beyond this series to go into details but rollover.html on my web site has the working code with explanations, to be pasted and used as often as wanted. You will need your own images, two gifs of equal size for each case. Be aware, too, that JavaScript rollovers do not work in Internet Explorer 3.

The other method uses Java applets - mini compiled programs in separate *.class files which should be kept with the main file. Links are inserted into the page between `<APPLET> ...</APPLET>` tags. It is a complex business to create an applet but there are many available free on the Internet, at freewarejava.com or www.jars.com for example. You customise the applet with `<PARAM>` tags. Full instructions and details on what form the image(s) should take are usually provided. Be aware that if, for any reason, the applet doesn't work, you will be left with a grey rectangle where the image should appear. They will work with most modern browsers provided Java (virtual machine) has been set.

This month's example includes a simple script that counts down to the millennium. Next issue - how to keep your menu buttons visible even when scrolling down a long page, using `<FRAMESET>`.

Examples and references are at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tonylondon/>

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Training given

If you are interested contact the co-ordinator on 020 8444 6265.

Come and join us!

THE ARCHER is what it says on the front page, a community newspaper run entirely by volunteers. The people who produce and deliver the paper come from a wide range of backgrounds, abilities and ages and all of them give up their time for something they believe benefits the people of East Finchley. Of course, none of us would do it if it was not fun. The enjoyment is not just in producing the paper; it is also about Christmas parties and summer barbecues and standing round the bar chatting after meetings.

Another string to your bow

Of course not everyone who was there at the beginning is still part of the paper today. In fact, as people's lives have changed, so has their involvement with the paper. But as people have moved on, others have joined. They have joined for many reasons. One person joined us because she was new to the area and felt it was a good way to feel at home here. Another was newly retired and found helping with the paper gave him a new interest. Several of the people who helped found the paper were unemployed at the time. All of them found helping produce and distribute a community newspaper for the people of East Finchley to be enjoyable and rewarding and all of them made new friends as a result.

Why not have a shot at it?

For any voluntary organisation to succeed it requires new volunteers to bring in new ideas and enthusiasm. Perhaps you have wondered about getting involved? Perhaps as a writer, or to help with advertising, distribution or fundraising? If you have ever thought about helping us why not phone us and come along.

Tip of the month

Old telephone directories make ideal personal address books. Simply cross out the names and addresses of people you don't know.

Useless info

Stewardesses and reverberated are the two longest words (12 letters) that can be typed using only the left hand. The longest word that can be typed using the right hand is lollipop. Scepticisms is the longest word that alternates hands.