



# A cut above



Diana 'before' at ellemen

By Diana Cormack  
Since the New Year began with me lying in bed with a bout of 'flu, I was in no position to carry out my only resolution. Not that it was a new one, far from it. In fact, I've almost made up my mind to do it several times over many months, but at last I have gone through with it.

I was inspired by an advert for models in the window of *ellemen*, 148 High Road, East Finchley. In my younger days I used to take myself off to Vidal Sassoon's in Knightsbridge on model nights, so it wouldn't be a completely new experience. But I had been growing my hair for several years and I was quite nervous about the outcome. Luckily, I was put into the experienced hands of Tony Jun, and I bravely told him to do what he thought best for me. Half way through, with my long locks lying on the floor, I felt that a strong gin and tonic would be best for me, but I needn't have worried!

Chinese born Tony trained in Japan. He has also visited many countries to take part in hair-styling shows and competitions for the well-known firm Wella. He joined *ellemen* last October and works alongside stylists Yuka and Tulay and beauty therapists Ella and Ar-ian. After rigorous inspection, the salon has recently received a Five Star Award given by the Good Salon Guide.

I'll second that! The "before" and "after" pictures show what a beautiful job Tony made of my hair. I feel really happy about it and I haven't had so many compliments in years!



The finished article! Diana with Tony Jun. Photos by Linda Bower

## Filming in East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

Late afternoon shoppers in the High Road were startled to see a woman wearing a white dressing gown, her hair in silver foil, repetitively running up and down the pavement from A1 Motors to the doctor's surgery at number 91.

All was revealed on the other side of the road, where a film crew was working outside *ellemen*. In fact, they had spent most of the afternoon filming inside the hair and beauty salon.

### Hair line

Proprietor Mario Nicolaou told me that he had been contacted by Assembly Film and TV, who felt that his premises were suitable for shooting some scenes involving hair and beauty work.

In the new comedy series called "Black Books" co-written

by Graham Linehan, who helped to write the hit comedy *Father Ted*, a character spots her errant husband passing by as she is having her hair done and rushes out to accost him.

Written for Channel Four, each story revolves around the rather eccentric owner of a bookshop and his various colleagues. It stars Dylan Moran, who is also the co-writer, Bill Bailey and Tamsin Greig.

The programme is expected to be broadcast this summer.

## EAST FINCHLEY FAMILIES



Kathy Dew (front) as a baby with her family

## The Abreys -

### From the laundry in the walks

By Daphne Chamberlain

"Dear Madam, Would you like to try our private hand laundry free of charge?"

Alfred Abrey's advertising card promised "a laundry within a garden, free from the factory atmosphere with its many flower beds and hundreds of rose trees, with open country all around."

He was describing "Ye Olde Palace Hand Laundry", which he ran from his home in Verandah House. This was an historic old house in The Walks - on the corner of the path, which runs to Stanley Road.

Alfred had come from Cambridgeshire 100 years ago, but soon became well known in Finchley and Highgate. Wearing his straw "yarder" hat in summer and a bowler in winter, he wheeled laundry to and from customers in a large handcart.

The washing was done with scrubbing-brushes, in wooden tubs. The Abreys' daughter, now Mrs. Kathy Dew, remembers bathing in one of them.

The one-acre garden included an apple orchard, the drying area and a strip at the bottom where a neighbour kept his pigs.

### At the pictures

Mrs. Dew, the youngest of eight, only saw Verandah House on annual visits, when a big treat was sitting in the back row of the Phoenix (then the Picturedrome), with a tin of toffees. (Her mother died when she was 18 months, and she lived with relations near Stansted until she was 17.) Two of her sisters,

Peggy and Lily, worked in the Picturedrome and her father advertised the programmes outside the laundry in return for free tickets.

The laundry closed down in 1939. (It ran for a few years from a shop in Market Place - when washing was sent to be

done by the girls at the Convent of the Good Shepherd in East End Road.)

Verandah House was bought by the Merry Miller Bakery and Alfred Abrey died in 1947, but his descendants are still contributing to life in East Finchley.

### Continuous contributions

Kathy Dew, now nearly 81, was employed for over 20 years at Sims, in Oak Lane, and she still lives in New Oak Road, as does her granddaughter. Her brother, Frederick, and niece, Rita, worked for the Congregational church (where Budgen's is now), and many East Finchleyans know her daughter, Patricia, who recently moved to Stroud. Perhaps better known as Pat Ruskin, Patricia was for six years the friendly Administrative Assistant at Contact.



The staff of Ye Olde Palace Hand Laundry at the rear of Verandah House

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