



Anna and Elsie after cooking the Salvation Army lunch. Photo Daphne Chamberlain

## Follow the drum!

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Haris and Anna Giannaros were led from a small village outside Salonika, in Greece, to the Salvation Army training college in central London.**

In 1997, newly commissioned, they were sent to East Finchley to re-open the Mission in Hertford Road (which had closed in 1991 after nearly 100 years, although a resident Salvationist had already re-started the Lunch Club).

Music was playing in the Mission Hall when I visited one of their Friday lunches, and Anna tried out a crafty dance step or two.

Helped by Elsie, her "right-hand woman", she had just cooked lunch. Haris was painting the Hall walls, and joking with "regulars" (The hall will have some structural improvements soon, following a very generous anonymous legacy.)

### A welcome for all

After lunch, there is an Evergreen meeting for older people, with transport for those who need it.

On Mondays, the Teddy Bear Club takes over, with 60 or 70 parents and toddlers socialising and Haris playing his guitar - and sometimes entertaining with puppets. (He was a puppeteer in Greece.)

Haris and Anna have six children of their own, which is hard to believe when you see them.

The youngest two, Peter and Paul, attend Holy Trinity School, where Haris takes weekly assemblies.

Many East Finchley residents will know Anna already. She sells the War Cry outside Budgens every Thursday, while Haris has a pitch in North Finchley.

They used to hand out food parcels to the needy once a week. This has stopped temporarily, due to a hitch with the suppliers, but it should start up again soon.

Plans include building up house-meetings, where people can meet in each other's homes, and from April there will be a Greek house-meeting (including a Greek meal) on the last Sunday of every month.

### People are seeking

Haris told me, "Our prayer is to see the Christian church, of whatever denomination, re-established in East Finchley. We are here to tell people that God loves everyone, and will always welcome back a Prodigal Son. Churches are closing down, but people are seeking. We are hoping to make the church relevant to people's lives."

Mission Hall is in Hertford Road (junction with High Road). Tel. 020 8444 0207/ 8883 6674.

## Exhibition is a hit

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Finchley artist Mary Caron-Courtney is exhibiting some of her mixed media and textile designs at Chorak until the end of April.**

She is delighted by the response to her first solo exhibition. At the time of writing, she had already sold 15 framed textile pieces, not to mention the greeting and post-cards which were walking out of the door on the night of the preview.

I particularly liked her use of colour. The first pieces you see are very muted, but they lead on to some really vibrant, glowing work.

### Versions of history

Mary is mainly inspired by historical sources, including costumes at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Look for the different versions of "Elizabeth's Lace". One started off as an intact piece of material, which was deliberately warped. Another was created by sewing scraps of cellophane, which was then dissolved in a bath.

Mary is off on a round-the-world tour in the summer, from which she hopes to come back with ideas from Australian and Far Eastern costume. All being well, she intends to exhibit at Chorak again in about 18 months.

Meanwhile, she is always ready to take commissions. She can be contacted on 020 8346 1871. Chorak is at 122, High Road N2 9ED. Tel. 020 8442 0370.

## LETTERS

### East End Road Bridge

Sorry, Rob Arenstein! You are not a genius. (Well, you did ask!)

I am, of course, just referring to your letter in last month's issue, when you suggested a pedestrian walkway outside the bridge.

Perhaps both you and Dr. Frost missed our February edition, which covered the ownership of the bridge ("Tight Squeeze" on page 3).

To recap - the bridge itself belongs to London Underground, with Barnet responsible for maintaining the road and pavement. Attaching a footway would mean re-locating LU cables, which run on the outside of the bridge. LU has already vetoed the same proposal for the bridge at Church End.

In addition, the minimum cost of installing a footbridge would be about £200,000.

This is why Barnet has suggested road narrowing as the only interim solution.

THE ARCHER continues to support local concern about the danger of the present situation, and we will keep a close eye on future developments.

Daphne Chamberlain - THE ARCHER



## You cannot be serious!

**Forget the cuckoo! The herald of spring in East Finchley is the cry of 'out' and 'You cannot be serious!' from the Muswell Hill URC Tennis Club as it opens for the new season on 1 April.**

In spite of its name, the club is truly local, and had been tucked away behind no 31 Southern Road since 1927, boasting such local luminaries as Charles Dance and THE ARCHER's own Diana Cormack among its most recent past members.

### Side lined

With four shale courts, lawn and trees it is an ideal refuge from urban stress, though feelings can occasionally run high over a disputed line call. Members gather for spirited general play on Saturday afternoons, using a board system, which ensures that no one is left out. Their families occasionally wander down to laze in deckchairs with a cup of tea.

Beginners and 'returnees' can join as Practice Members at a reduced rate until, with the help of Robby Sukhedo, the coach, they are able to join in general play. Robby runs some very popular evening Practice Members group sessions, as well as more intensive individual coaching for the really keen.

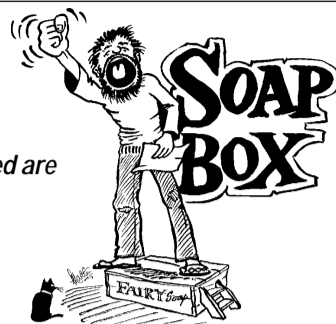
### Smashing fun

While some members are content with social tennis and an occasional American tournament, others enjoy the adrenaline rush of the annual tournament with the chance to win the coveted trophies. The Men's Singles shield is a particularly impressive affair, inscribed with every winner since 1928. The Ladies' and Men's teams provide an opportunity to play against other North London clubs in the Middlesex League, so there is plenty to challenge the more competitive players.

For more information call Membership Secretary on 020 8365 2596, or pop into the club on a Saturday between 2 and 4pm and meet the members.

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



## Inconvenient

By Mary Atkinson

**When I first came to live in East Finchley there were three public lavatories for our use - one in East End Road, adjacent to the Bald Faced Stag; one in the underground station, spotlessly clean under the management of Lottie; and the one that remains, in Cherry Tree Wood, by the tennis courts.**

### And then there was one

On considering the two closures I am amazed at the lack of public outcry. Every other passer-by in the High Road is glugging bottled water, swigging a can of something fizzy, sucking a straw tucked into fruit juice or clutching a container of tea or coffee. How do they all manage to balance this intake against the lack of facilities for output?

### No loos isn't good news

On examining adjacent shopping centres - Muswell Hill, Highgate and North Finchley - I find a similar dearth of WCs. Would not the provision of a well-serviced public loo in the High Road be a feather in East Finchley's cap, a boon for the elderly, a god-send for parents with young children who can't or won't wait and an amenity for visitors to our village centre?

### Where do you stand?

### Or sit?

Come on local councillors! In between worrying over whether to support Frank or Ken, let us know in the next issue where you stand on the "Bring Back our Convenience" debate.

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