



Getting Wired

Part 14 - Putting on the style (without the agony!)

The web browser is in a state of transition. Later browsers use what are called style sheets to format documents. With these you can maintain a consistent appearance across all of your site and change it at a stroke. Earlier browsers don't recognise them but still have to look reasonable.

The easiest way to apply style sheets is to prepare your pages in the normal way but with the browser default formatting and using only the six headers and paragraph blocks to change the way the text looks on the page until it is reasonable. Then link the pages to a style sheet for the brighter touches, using the following code within the HEAD of the document:

```
<LINK rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="mystyle.css">
```

where mystyle.css is the name of your style sheet and the rest is exactly as shown.

You can create a stylesheet using notepad, saving it as plain text and changing its name to, say, mystyle.css, or even better, find one you like on the net. If you like the look of a web page, right-click on it and select view source. Look for the LINK code above and if it exists, note the href, recover the file and put it in your web folder. Now you can adapt it to your needs. The grammar differs from HTML but is recognisable. Heading 1 is still h1 and paragraph is still p. Colours are described in the same way, as named colours or hexadecimal notation, and type sizes are usually in points. You can set a background texture or colour, set the font, or alter the alignment of the text. The good thing is that you make adjustments to the style sheet only, then see how your pages look and if you are not happy you can try again.

You don't need to understand how the code works but be careful with those commas, colons and semicolons. As an illustration, the first instruction might look like this:

```
body { font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif; font-size: 12pt; color: maroon; background-color: lemonchiffon; background-image: any.gif; background-repeat: repeat }
```

If you would like a ready-made sample style sheet to adapt and use and a chart of the named colours, just send me an email stating any preferences.

Tony Roberts, tonylondon@lineone.net



Audrey Cartwright photo by Diana Cormack

Long service award

By Diana Cormack

Mrs Audrey Cartwright of Benedict Way, East Finchley, has been presented with an impressive certificate by the Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Jack Cohen.

This was to acknowledge her many years of service to the borough, all of which were spent at Holy Trinity School. She began working as a mealtime supervisor at the old school building in East End Road (now the Bobath Centre) in 1973, where her sons Stephen and Stuart had their primary education. In 1975 she moved with the school to the present building in Eagan's Close.

Audrey has worked with six different head teachers whom many readers may remember - Mr Davies, Mr Lewis, Miss Gerrard, Mrs Singham, Mr Bartlett and, more recently, Mr Flathers. She has many happy memories of her days there and would dearly love to have completed the last few months to her retirement, but ill health prevented this. The school gave her a beautiful garden basket full of different flowers on her retirement and she is returning to show the children her certificate and a photograph of the mayor presenting it to her. Audrey is rightly proud of her achievement. Her pleasure is tinged only by the regret that her husband, who died 18 months ago, is not here to share it with her.

Praise for Grammar Schools

OFSTED's Annual Report for 1999 awarded gold stars to two of Barnet's Grammar Schools for achieving sustained excellent GCSE results.

St Michael's Catholic Grammar School in North Finchley and Queen Elizabeth School for Boys in Chipping Barnet were identified as being among the best in the country.

Barnet Conservative Councillor Brian Coleman, who is also the North London spokesperson for the Conservative Party's National Grammar

School Taskforce, commented:

"These schools should be congratulated on receiving this recognition. Surely the argument for a ballot of parents over the future of these schools is now dead in the water... These schools should now be left alone and allowed to continue maintaining their very high standards of education."

Cycling across Cuba

By Jane Revell

On 5 February 2000, 55 cyclists travelled to Cuba to ride across the island from the beautiful old city of Trinidad on the Caribbean coast in the south, through the Escambray Mountains, to Havana on the Atlantic coast in the north: a total distance of 240 miles. I was one of them.

Now 240 miles may not sound very much to some people (although it sounded quite far enough to me!), but in that tremendous heat (30 degrees centigrade), and up and down some fairly steep hills on gravelly roads full of treacherous potholes ... it was certainly a challenge for anyone. Add to that cars, lorries and buses belching out noxious black clouds of fumes, pedestrians ambling down the middle of the road, bicycles, bicycle taxis, goats, horses and even bulls weaving along the highway, and the challenge becomes even greater. (To say nothing of evenings suffering locked thighs, a very sore bum and a Groucho Marx walk!).

So why do it? Well, first of all, it was a charity cycle to raise money for the Guide Dogs for



Jane Revell in Cuba

the Blind Association. Secondly, it was a chance to visit the somewhat inaccessible island of Cuba and perhaps have the opportunity to see a lot more than one would as an ordinary tourist.

And so it was. Cycling through the stunning Cuban countryside, greeting everyone along the way, stopping off at a guarapo stall to drink sugar cane juice for a quick energy boost, feeling the beat of the music at every single bar you passed. And you had only to stop for a moment and look even a little bit lost, than you would be swiftly surrounded and redirected to the route with shouts of: "They went that way!"

Beautiful place, beautiful people

Cuba is a beautiful country and the Cubans are probably the friendliest people I have met in all of my travels. They are struggling so hard and they have very little, but what very little they have, they are more than happy to share.

The meticulously planned cycle route and the balance with extra-curricular activities were

all the work of a man called Simon Bull of Blazing Saddles.

Should you ever wish to visit Cuba and see a bit more than the average tourist, you might consider doing it this way. I had a wonderful time in Cuba. I learned a lot ... and I cycled a lot more than I ever had before! I didn't always think I was going to make it as I laboured up those hills, but in the end I did.

I would like to thank the following East Finchley local people who have already sponsored me to raise money for the GDBA: Lutfi and Jacqui Oguzcan, Susan Norman, C W Andrew's Pharmacy, Mike Ryan at Finchley Pets and Bob at the Butchers.

I am still waiting to hear from many individuals and businesses I approached before I left for Cuba. If you haven't yet got around to sponsoring me and would like to, it is not too late, and I still have a lot of money to raise. Please send your donation (large or small) to Jane Revell, 34 Park Hall Road, East Finchley, London N2 9PU or I will pop round and collect it. Many thanks.

CONTACT CONTACT, East Finchley's Good Neighbour Scheme, is appealing for **VOLUNTEERS** to support the elderly and housebound who need help in the N2 area. Expenses will be paid and training given. Please call the co-ordinator between 9am and 1pm on 020 8444 1162. **CONTACT**

42 Church Lane
London N2 8DT



Telephone:
020 8444 6265

EAST FINCHLEY ADVICE SERVICE NEEDS VOLUNTEER ADVISERS

Do you enjoy helping others?
Could you give advice?

Are you a sympathetic listener?

Can you spare two and a half hours a week?

Training given

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

FOR SALE

Phillips compact studio face tanner (UV)

As new. Unwanted gift. £50 when purchased.

Will accept £25 o.n.o.

Contact Barbara evenings

020 8365 3748