



Light fantastic

By Lawrie Chivers

What an amazing place East Finchley is! I think I speak for many residents and businesses in this London suburb, which has truly proved its village status.

The response for funding the Christmas lights showed that we Finchleians do really care about our village. As well as the many residents, the following businesses made contributions to the lights: *A Scott & Son, A Stewart Duncan, A1 Chivers Brothers, Amazing Grates, Andrews Opticians, Apollo Promotions, Bancroft Garage, Barclays Bank, Bargain Centre, Bernard Tomkins & Co, Budgens, CW Andrew Pharmacy, Capital Estates, Casa Pepe, Chateaux Vino, Cootes Pharmacy, Coral Travel, Cory Pharmacy Ltd, Cree Godfrey & Wood, Culture Vultures, Dolce Halia Patisserie, East Finchley Electrical, Eckert Bowen, Finchley Furnishers, Finchley Youth Theatre, Gus Gents Hair Stylist, HR Dry Cleaning Service, Heck of a Wash Laundrette, Josephine's, K J Pittalis & Co, Kokos Shoes & Repairs, Local Café, McDonalds, Maddens Ale House, Mahavir Sweet Mart, Martin Gerrard, P A Music, Pacey's Newsagent, Patco, Plummers News, Pristine Dry Cleaning, Quality Tandoori, Rampdale Insurance Brokers Ltd, Securebase Ltd, Shanghai Shanghai, Shoe Surgeon, Spar Grocers, Sponge & Press, Teaching Trends, The Bald Faced Stag, The Big Chef, The Old Europeans, The Weavers, Toms Butchers, Tony's Continental, UOE, Victory Auto Services Ltd.*



Santa with a visitor to his grotto. Photo by Lawrie Chivers

My special thanks also to my brother Roger, Dino of East Finchley Electrical, George and the young ladies from Kokos Shoes, Mamie Cude, Diana Cormack and *THE ARCHER* team and, of course, Father Christmas for visiting our Grotto at the Youth Theatre.

Barnet humbug!

Barnet Council has informed us that they will not make their £6,000 contribution to next year's lights so we have considered buying instead of renting them.

McRescue

McDonalds has made a magnificent donation of £1,000 which brings their total up to £7,000 over the three years. George, Roger and I will underwrite a further £3,000 which we will retrieve from next year's collection. So before next Christmas we will have to raise £6,000 to cover the cost of mounting, removing, insuring, maintaining and storing the lights. After this year's effort I am convinced we can do it.

Rough lands

Our local Councillors seem to have a yen for the Wild West...

Did you see the recent Council bulletin showing the dauntless trio posed on various sites? One of the sites was called "The Rough Lands."

Hello? Where is this scary - sounding place? Just over the North Circular, apparently, behind the Territorial Hall and the Warner Village.

Oh, there! They mean "The Rough Lots." Somebody tell them, before they ride off into the sunset!

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EAST FINCHLEY PEOPLE

Tinker, tailor, violin maker . . .

Story by Paul Savill, Picture by David Tupman



Violin in the making by Judith and violin complete by Tibor - price £5,000

How many violin makers have you met in your life? During mine I have met far too many tinkers, a few tailors, but not one violin maker. This all changed recently in the space of a day when I met two right here in East Finchley.

A flat minor

They live in a flat in Chandos Road, just off the High Road. Tibor Szemmelveisz and Judith Moser, both aged 30, earn their livings making and restoring violins.

Tibor, a Hungarian, met Judith, from Germany, 11 years

ago when they were both learning the craft of violin making at a specialist school in Bavaria.

They came to London nearly five years ago because it is the centre for trading bowed instruments in Europe.

Restoration, in Tibor's words, earns them their "daily bread". Tibor works from home and Judith at a leading bowed instrument restorer at Oxford Circus.

Varnishing skill

The "cream" is found in violin making. It takes 300 hours to make a violin by hand, followed by many more hours of varnishing. Sometimes as many as 20

coats are used.

Four types of wood are involved and over 60 pieces used. Furthermore, it takes a person years to reach the peak of his craft, 25 years in fact.

A lot of violin making these days is mechanised in factories, but the best are still made by hand.

Second fiddle

The cheapest violin can be bought for £200 but one made by Tibor will cost £5,000.

An antique violin will cost much more. The famous Stradivarius, of which there are 670 recorded in the world, can fetch over £1 million.

Daffodils aren't just for St David's Day

Marie Curie Cancer Care is on the lookout for volunteers to help ensure that this millennium year's Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal is the best one ever!

Last year's London Appeal raised over £75,000 for the Marie Curie Nurses, who gave practical nursing care to 1,069 people with cancer in London in their own homes, free of charge. The charity also has ten specialist cancer care centres, including Edenhall in Hampstead and a world renowned Research Institute.

North London Area Fundraising Manager Sarah Toone hopes to top that total this spring, but she can only do it with the help of *ARCHER* readers. Sarah says:

"I am looking for volunteers to help collect money by handing out fabric daffodil lapel pins in return for a donation on our Marie Curie Daffodil Day street collection on Saturday 18 March. I would also love to hear from any shops, pubs, garages, schools and offices who would be willing to take a box of daffodils in March or, indeed, anyone who would like to organise a fundraising event."

Anyone who would like to help should contact Sarah on 020 7963 4100.

Blue on the Northern Line

Travellers got their first glimpse of London Underground Ltd's future last month as Northern Line staff donned new uniforms.

The high visibility sky-blue fabric replaces the orange waistcoat previously worn by staff and includes a re-styled hat with a reflective band which makes them easier to spot. The old uniform was 100% synthetic, making it uncomfortable in hot conditions.



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