



Out & About...

with Noel Lynch

Well done Julia

East Finchley resident Julia Mckechnie, head of The Consumer Association, took on the might of the car manufacturers recently, and won. Her 'rip off Britain' campaign has forced the carmakers to drop their prices.

Trust

The first meeting of the East Finchley Trust working group was held on September 14. It was attended by representatives of the Council, Agenda21, youth officer, Tarling Road Residents, The Old Barn and East Finchley Advice Services. Eventually the trust will own a parcel of land on behalf of the community.

Rocky Horror

Observant viewers will have seen local actor/artist Jonathan Adams starring in 'The Rocky Horror Show' shown on TV.

Archers pulling power

Local musician Eddy Sayer tells me that a person turned up at his home last week, clutching a six month old copy of *The Archer* which had details of Eddy's CD. Eddy uses gongs to teach meditation and relaxation. Due to our write up he was booked for a full day workshop at the Ray Man music centre.

Regret

It was with regret that we heard of the death of Gary Olsen (star of 2.4 children), at the early age of 42. Gary was a frequent visitor to the East Finchley Bargain Centre a few years ago.

Is Royston really East Finchley?

If you have not been following The League of Gentlemen you will not know what I'm talking about. Royston Vasey is a weird isolated village where outsiders are unwelcome but, once in, you cannot get out. It has been revealed that the writers of the series, Steve Penberston and Reece Shearsmith, live in East Finchley. Some sketches have been inspired by conversations overheard in local shops. I predict that East Finchley will be watching their Christmas Special!

Watching you

Who is watching you? Planning permission has been applied for to put 23 CCTV cameras at the East Finchley underground station. Please send items suitable for this column to Noel Lynch at The Bargain Centre, 212 High Road, N2, Tel 020 8883 0234 or e-mail noellynch@lineone.net

Friends of Cherry Tree Wood

By A. Lalaguna

I am glad to say that the number of criminal and violent acts against the wild life in the Wood seems to have decreased. But, sadly, the attention of the vandals seems to have now been turned on the wooden benches, one of which has been smashed, yet again.

There has also been a disappointing increase in the amount of litter. This seems to be the price we have to pay for the seasonal increase in the numbers of visitors to the Wood.

Litter bugs

It never ceases to amaze me how so many people, who obviously enjoy visiting the Wood each summer for picnics, sunbathing and general relaxation, do not seem to have any sense of responsibility towards the long-term preservation of the woodland.

When they walk away, leaving a trail of debris behind them, why don't they think about the implications of rotting food, plastic bottles and bags, broken cans and glass and a lot more unmentionable detritus, for the wild life and the woodland itself?

Foul fine

There has also been an increase in the number of irresponsible dog owners this summer. Hopefully, this problem will be solved with the on-the-spot fines which will be implemented later in the year. Equally, the "no cycling" signs

are still being ignored by many cyclists every day. We will be asking for bigger signs.

The Committee of the Friends are working very hard indeed to maintain the preservation of the Wood as an invaluable local amenity for our community, but we are stretched to the limit now with the Volunteer Working Days organised every few weeks and many other activities throughout the year.

Help needed

We really would be very grateful indeed for some more help - particularly from the younger generation; and by younger I mean the under 45s! Just one hour a year from each member would be absolutely wonderful. It's a very small amount of time to ask but it would make all the difference.

There must be many members out there with all kinds of skills and ideas which could be used for the benefit of the Wood.

If you would like to become a Friend of Cherry Tree Wood, please contact the Secretary on 020 8883 3846 or the Chairman on 020 8444 8366. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

Raise Your Glasses!

By Diana Cormack

It may sound like taking coals to Newcastle but Mohan Vaithianathar, the optometrist at Fields Opticians in the High Road, would like you to give him your spectacles. He needs as many as he can get and, over the next few months, will be busy preparing them for re-cycling. Next year Mohan will again be taking part in a charity trip to Ghana, where he knows from past experience that he will receive a very warm welcome.



Optometrist Mohan Vaithianathar with a patient in Africa

People travel for many, many miles and queue for hours on end to have their first ever eye-examination. On average a typical UK optometrist will see 16-20 patients a day but over five days last year Mohan's team of three volunteers saw 180 patients! Around 200 spectacles were dispensed and fitted; including many much needed non-prescription sunglasses. These can alleviate the excruciating pain caused by photophobia as well as help with other conditions, of which there are many.

Be seen and see

Often the whole family needs to attend when a patient's condition indicates a hereditary disease, but in the time available Mohan is only able to see a fraction of the people who need him to see! In the diary of his last visit Mohan wrote "We felt guilty and at a loss because we could not provide more spectacles to meet the needs of many individuals."

If you would like to play a part in this worthwhile venture, please take your unwanted spectacles or sunspecs to Fields Opticians at 108 High Road, East Finchley. Mohan will then grade and prepare them for much needed use in Africa.

Welcome to East Finchley Village?

By Diana Cormack

The sign welcoming people to East Finchley has mysteriously disappeared from the roadside near the tube station. Could it be that someone who originally objected to the sign has at last decided to take matters into their own hands? If so, did they object to the sign per se, or the fact that it was a welcome to East Finchley Village Centre rather than to the whole of East Finchley?

When these signs were put up, some people were put out and feared that if they did not belong to East Finchley Village Centre then the price of their property might be adversely affected. They felt that the signs should have been placed further afield so that everyone in East Finchley could be included. But included in what? The welcome or the village?

Village people

Obviously not everyone is welcome (graffiti merchants in particular) so the signs themselves are a bit over the top. The question that really needs to be asked is whether or not East Finchley is a village. It appears that the lack of green fields, meandering streams and farmyard smells is no longer a barrier to the title, for today it is possible to be an "urban village." See how we match up

to the criteria: -

It has its own identity; Local church; A strong community feel; Bakery; Newsagent; Delicatessen; Office shop; Village green or abundance of green space/water; Good local schools; Village pub with good modern menu.

I have been known to say, "I'm just going up the village," much to the derision of my family, but when I'm going shopping or to the hairdresser or the Archer meeting in Maddens, that's how I feel. Reading that list again (and it doesn't mention having your own newspaper!) I reckon that we can lay claim to being a village, but if we are, then where does the village centre begin? I'm not even going to try to answer that!

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