



Animal Magic

By Laura Denman

The RSPCA was set up in 1824 to prevent cruelty to animals and employed a young man called Charles Wheeler who became the Society's first inspector.



Volunteer clinic manager, Laura Denman, and vet, Rachel Dunlop, examine Ambrose. Photo by Martin Earl

The Finchley, Golders Green, Hendon & District Branch RSPCA Clinic was first opened in 1931 for needy pet owners in the area, and no sick or injured animal is ever turned away. Our two veterinary surgeons handle routine first opinion cases and anything surgical or serious is referred to the Harmsworth Hospital in Holloway.

Furs come, furs served

The Clinic situated in Park Road, East Finchley, N2 (next to the Duke of Cambridge pub) is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Appointments are not necessary, but it helps if you get there early as sometimes the queue can get quite long.

The Clinic is run by volunteers and depends on donations and fund-raising by the public to keep it going, as the RSPCA receives no government support. New volunteers for street collecting and for helping at fund-

raising events are always welcomed.

Keeping Track of Your Pets

Pet owners know that having some form of identification on their animal is one way of trying to ensure their safe return should they wander off. Besides the usual collar disc, a more modern method of ID is proving to be most successful. Vets are now able to attach a permanent microchip bearing a unique identification number. This can be scanned and the information revealed enables the owner to be traced and contacted quickly.

The RSPCA Small Animals' Clinic, which is held in Park Road, East Finchley, provides a microchipping service. It is available on Monday or Thursday evenings from 6.30pm onwards at a cost of £15 per pet. Small price to pay for the return of a loved one!

East Finchley Baptist Church

just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2
Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm
for more information contact 8883 5743

Visitors always welcome

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.

Down on the farm

By Stella Burnett

Well, Vale Farm allotments actually. We're knee deep in peas, beans, courgettes, new season's carrots, next winter's cauliflowers...

It's feet up in the sunshine; out with the thermos flasks, gossip with fellow gardeners and watch the tomatoes turn red.

Dig in

For years now our allotments have been going steadily downhill and a number of plots have become derelict. But now Barnet Council has had a rush of enthusiasm and is actually going to do something about it! It is all down to the dynamic duo of Colin Nash from the Recreation Department and Robin Bloom of Legal Services. They are chasing up plot holders and trying to free up derelict sites so there is chance that we might have plots available again.

So if you would like to bag a plot ring me on 8444 7860 and get your name in quickly.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Howzat?

Sometimes I just love it when I get it wrong. I didn't want to see Kevin's heroes limp back from the European Championships branded the second worst team in the tournament. I wanted England to storm through their group games beat the Dutch 4-0 in the semi-finals before a grand footballing fest against the French marked by Shearer celebrating his last game for England with a hat trick. Instead we beat the worst team, Germany, and lost the rest.

I wanted Henman and Rusedski in the final at Wimbledon. I didn't want to see Rusedski limp out and Henman crash out to Pete Sampras. Predicting something doesn't mean you want it to happen.

Test case

Which brings me to the cricket and, more importantly, to the West Indies. I know that they are the one side whose captain isn't taking calls from his bookie to fix the match so I reckoned that we were facing the usual wipe out. It even started with a crushing win for the Windies at Edgbaston and left me feeling that this could be the series where Ambrose and Walsh took it in turns to clatter the English wickets while Lara averaged 200 runs an innings. In my dreams I saw Gough, Caddick, Cork and White taking wickets and Hick, Vaughan and Stewart making runs. I didn't expect it to happen. Then came Lords and an England win. Then came Headingley.

Oval anxious

It is over 50 years since a test match ended in two days. It is almost as long since England beat the Windies as comprehensively. And for the Yorkshiremen in the team to play such a big part in a victory in God's Own County is icing on the cake...and then came the Oval!

So, time for a few predictions: At the Olympics Great Britain will win a hatful of gold medals, David Coulthard will win Formula One and Tottenham will do better than Arsenal. I might be wrong, I usually am, but I hope not.

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Top team: L-R - Head waiter Francesco, waitress Zuzana, Pepe (the boss!), chef Armindo. Photo by John Larimer.

Pepe's Place

By John Larimer

Since 1989, we've had opportunity to enjoy an excellent breakfast, lunch or daytime snack at the popular Casa Pepe, 89 High Road. If you haven't had a look inside recently, you certainly should...particularly after 6 pm!

During the past several months, Casa Pepe has undergone extensive renovation and decoration. Perhaps you did not know that among Pepe's talents is that of magician. At 6 pm Monday through Saturday, with

a wave of his magic wand, he transforms his establishment into a fine restaurant with elegant table settings, decor and staff.

Eat, drink and be merry

Casa Pepe is now fully licensed to serve you drinks of your choice. There is a very good evening menu offering a wide selection at quite reasonable prices. Fish is a speciality and a vegetarian menu is available. Children are very welcome.

Children's millennium woods

For every child born in Barnet during 2000, the Council will plant a tree.

The plan is to create five children's woods, all on council-owned land within parks and open spaces, close to children's play areas or schools. The nearest to East Finchley will be in Lyttelton Playing Fields.

All the trees and shrubs will be native to this country, to provide ecological habitats for birds and insects, and they will be protected by fencing or tree shelters.

Barnet wants parents and carers to be actively involved in planting their child's tree. Those who attend the plantings (provisionally arranged for November and December 2000 and February 2001) will be given commemorative certificates.

Application forms to register the children and/or to participate in the planting are available from libraries and from the Mobile Information Unit, which is outside East Finchley library between 2.30 and 4.30pm every Monday, except for Bank holidays.

Look for the leaflet entitled Children's Millennium Woods, or contact Recreation & Parks Department at Barnet House, 1255, High Road, Whetstone, N20 0EJ.