



Fred in The Paua House, who sadly passed away recently. Photo by Erini Rodis from her exhibition at Chorak

Capturing the moment

By Daphne Chamberlain

The Archer wasn't the only local paper to feature our own Erini Rodis last month. So did you catch her photographic exhibition at Chorak?

Some well-known East Finchley faces were spotted (figuratively speaking) at the preview, as were some of the ARCHER team.

A veteran charmer was giving us the eye from one wall. He was 120 years old, but for me it was love at first sight. Before the rumours start, I'm talking about a tuatara, a New Zealand lizard. As Erini told us last month, she wants to commemorate creatures and things while they are here.

I wonder how much longer will boys play street cricket in India, before the great god football takes over? The old man with folded arms in his amazing New Zealand Paua house is no longer with us. Even the landscapes celebrate a fleeting moment, which will never come again.

Unconventional

The only picture which came close to a travel brochure, complete with bikini-clad swimmer,

turned out to be a scene in Australia, but in the Northern Territory, which doesn't exactly have a glossy image.

Similarly, I wouldn't expect "Singapore by night" to show a tower block romantically gold-lit and framed by green trees. But that's how Erini saw and captured it.

This subjective and interesting exhibition proved the point of photography. If all snowflakes are different, the colours in her waterfall will never be quite the same again. Neither will the joy of the young boy riding his bike in Nepal.

Most of us do not have Erini's expertise, but we all probably carry mental images of incidents or people which caught our imagination. So, fellow happy snappers, keep that camera handy.

Footnote: Erini's exhibition has been extended until the end of September.

A Night with the Stars

By Sonia Singham

"How many of you would be able to take part in a charity concert at the Royal Albert Hall?" asked the musical director of the Crouch End Festival Chorus at the end of a rehearsal some months ago.

There was a suitable show of hands and we were told that the Chorus had been asked to appear and sing with Lesley Garrett and Andrea Bocelli and end the concert with a rendition of "There is nothing like a Dame".

As you might have guessed by now, it was the tribute concert to Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

Singing in the rain

For us members of the chorus, the stars twinkled in and out. We caught glimpses of them as we rushed from our dressing rooms, up to the stage and down again. We had just enough time after rehearsals to grab a snack and change into our concert dress.

Nothing like a Dame

It made it all worthwhile to see the Dame being presented with an enormous bouquet of flowers by none other than

Michael Jackson, and to know that the proceeds of the concert were going towards Elizabeth Taylor's Aids Foundation. It was a privilege for us to take part and certainly brought the Choir to the attention of the public.

At the Wells

If you have not yet attended a Crouch End Festival Chorus concert there will be a great opportunity to do so on Sunday 15 October at Sadlers Wells. The Chorus will be performing Vivaldi's Gloria, Out of the Ruins by Michael Nyman - the well-known composer of the film music for The Piano - and a new arrangement of Songs from Liquid Days by Philip Glass. We are already booked into Michael Nyman's diary and are trying to get Philip Glass to come over, so we might have both composers at this concert!

In the stars

East Finchley Astrologers As well as boasting more than its fair share of hairdressers, greengrocers, accountants and the like, it seems that East Finchley can also lay claim to having a number of astrologers living in the community.

Astrologer and homeopath Sue Tompkins lives in Church Lane and has been astrologer for over twenty years, seeing clients and lecturing all over the world on the subject. "Each person's horoscope is as unique as their fingerprint", explains Sue, "which is why newspaper astrology columns can only be very general".

"The practise of astrology doesn't mean that a person has no free will or that our lives are already completely fated," says fellow East Finchley astrologer Maureen Barker. "The horoscope works rather like a map, it's easier to understand where you have come from and where you are heading if you have a map alongside you."

Star Guide

Astrology can be used in many different ways; from predicting movements in the stockmarket to weather forecasting but Sue and her East Finchley friends who meet fortnightly use it mostly as a psychological tool, though Sue does admit she uses it to help her have a win on the horses occasionally!

It takes three to four years of study to become a professional astrologer but a lot of people initially do a part-time evening course for a few terms and that teaches them enough to be able to use it for themselves. Sue runs the London School of Astrology whose next beginners course starts on 5 October in the Holloway Road. There is also a free introductory open evening on 21 September. For details call 07002 334455.

A Special Anniversary

By Daphne Chamberlain



Renee Perkins

Renee Perkins has been telling The Archer about Church Lane and a lift in St. Paul's Cathedral.

She came to East Finchley exactly 50 years ago, moving into the house she and her husband, Harold, live in today. It's across the road from Holy Trinity church, and in 1997, when Holy Trinity celebrated its 150th anniversary, Renee led the prayers in the thanksgiving ceremony.

"If you put that in, I hope people won't think I'm showing off," she says. On the contrary. The church community is obviously important to her. She is on the Parochial Church Council and the Synod, her elder daughter, Mary, attended Holy Trinity school, and Alison, her younger daughter who sadly died not long ago, went to Brownie meetings in the church hall.

The hall was once home to Holy Trinity Infants, and also where the school fetes were held. Renee remembers Gracie Fields, Tommy Cooper and Monty Modlyn raising a lot of money for them.

She was also branch leader of the Mothers' Union for 16 years, which brings us to the St. Paul's lift. It's for people who have trouble with steps, but like most of us Renee didn't know about it. At a Mothers' Union service a little while ago, Renee was advised to wait for the lift, where she bumped into an old friend from her native Nottinghamshire.

In the village of Blyth, where she was born, she sang in the church choir ("Choir practice was a reason to get out"). Brother Frank was a chorister too, until someone thought the organ had gone wrong. It wasn't the organ. It was Frank's voice.

Friends and neighbours

How has Church Lane altered in the last 50 years? Renee recalls these memories: The green by the vicarage, with one of its six cottages inhabited by the aptly named verger, Mr Green; Rincroft the baker and Belcher the shoemaker; the stonemason and the sweet shop by the High Road where Rew Lodge stands today; Mr Dodd the fishmonger, the off-licence, the wool shop, the launderette - and the gas leaks. ("We've had more of them than hot dinners in this road!")

"We have wonderful friends," she says, "We support our neighbours and they watch out for us. I'm very blessed."

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