



EAST FINCHLEY FAMILIES



L-R: Sheila Stewart, Edie Adams and Gwen "Queenie" Dearsley.

Edith Adams, 1905-2001:

A Remarkable Lady

By Sheila Stewart (one of the "Old Girls")

Edie was born and brought up in Hamilton Road. Her greatest childhood treat was helping mum to push their crowded pram to Hampstead Heath, for a day "in the country".

Her first post as SRN was at Hastings Hospital. When war broke out, she was lodging with her sister, Clare, whose husband was in the Navy. Clare was expecting their first baby. Edie was there when the telegram arrived, "Regret to inform you...killed in action". After long hours of nursing wounded from the Front and civilians from the Blitz, Edie would cycle home to support Clare and her baby.

She was promoted to "Sister" at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey. There she met a visitor, Miss Bailey, who was Matron to 30 girls in a home for "waifs and strays". Edie loved young people, and was eternally grateful for her own happy upbringing. She decided her future vocation lay there, with less fortunate children.

Matron Bailey and Sister Adams kept contact with all "Old Girls" from the Home. Birthdays, anniversaries, etc, were remembered, and a welcome always given to husbands and children.

In their 60s, they retired from the Home. A wealthy friend, admiring their years of dedicated service, leased them her holiday house at Saunton Sands in Devon, where they opened a nursing home for the elderly, and converted a building in the grounds into self-catering accommodation for "Old Girls". There, they became "Nanna" and "Auntie" to many families, children and grandchildren, to whom they gave a holiday at the sea-side.

A Lifetime of Caring

In their 80s, they retired again, turning their Council house at West Buckland into a hive of activity, where they recycled all sorts of second-hand goods into items for Sue Ryder's

"Parcels for Poland".

They also held coffee mornings and made copious amounts of jam and marmalade, to sponsor two orphans in Africa, and Elizabeth's Dispensary for the Blind in India.

When "Nanna" fell ill, Edie, nearly 90 herself by then, cared for her to the end. Longing to return to her roots in Finchley, she was glad to be found a place at Nazareth House, where Irene, a kind care-worker, would read to her the many cards and letters sent by "Old Girls".

She was a remarkable lady, who devoted the whole of her life to caring for others.

Footnote: As a memorial to Edie Adams, the "Old Girls" have collected over £500 for research into motor neurone disease, which recently claimed the life of a mutual friend.

Time to Celebrate

By Diana Cormack

On the first day of this month my parents celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Sixty years of marriage and, during my lifetime, I have never ever heard them quarrel!

This being an extra special anniversary, it merits a card from the Queen, as does the sixty-fifth, seventieth then every following year of marriage. Phone Buckingham Palace on 020 7930 4832 or write for further details.

An ideal gift for such an occasion is a framed commemorative marriage certificate, available for silver, ruby, gold and diamond anniversaries. These are specially designed for the General Register Office with subtle use of colour to mark the specific anniversary with the couple's wedding details added in calligraphy script.

Phone the Commemorative

End of an Era

After twenty-one years in business at 220 High Road, East Finchley, Maureen and John Adkin have closed down. For sixteen of those years Maureen ran a hair and beauty salon, featured in *THE ARCHER* when it closed five years ago.

Since then the couple have run Village Antiques on the site, which became known not only for what it sold but also for the restoration skills practised by John. He intends to carry on with these in retirement from their home in Hertford, so if you find yourself in need of his advice or help telephone 01707 664886.

A hair removal clinic is planning to take over the premises.



Maureen Adkin of Village Antiques. Photo by Diana Cormack

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GARDENING

Cutting down

By Zena Robson

If you have been enjoying the display given to you by herbaceous perennials such as Geranium 'Johnson's Blue' and Alchemilla mollis, you should not only deadhead them as they go over, but you can shear the lot to the ground to get a fresh lot of leaves and some late flowering without the pest of loads of self-sown seedlings to which both are prone.

The flamboyant Oriental Poppies should also be cut right down, leaves and all unless you want to collect seeds; the leaves get tatty and take up a lot of room – they're best planted mid to back of the border so that the gap created by their shearing can be disguised with front planting. Foxgloves, on the other hand (and one of my all time favourites) should be left so that the seeds develop and scatter themselves around but don't forget that most foxgloves are biennial so will not flower until the summer after next.

Picture Perfect

Deadheading is really the order of the day for many perennials – things like Lupins will keep going longer, as will Acanthus and Delphiniums as they produce flowers on their side shoots. Some people find this activity tedious – not me! It gives me a chance for some mindless pottering, which is a particular hobby! As you wander about, nip out some pipings from pinks and carnations, trim to under a leaf node removing lower leaves and pop into some open gritty compost. They'll root quickly and you'll be able to pot them on before the end of summer. Keep in a cold frame over winter.

It's also not a bad idea to take some photographs – of your OWN garden not somebody else's! Over the winter you will be able to spend a little time looking back at them and thinking about what looked good and what you were not too thrilled with so that you can set about rejigging an area or two in the spring. I like to do that with my baskets and tubs so that I can review colour and plant combinations.