



## Return of the cartoonist

One thing that *THE ARCHER* has lacked recently is a regular cartoonist. We used to have one.

Those of you who have been with us since the beginning may remember the work of Alex Athanasiou, who used to contribute regularly to *Young Archer*. He was 12 then. Now he's 20, and keen to return.

Alex has lived in East Finchley since 1987, after spending his early years in Cyprus, where his father was working. He attended St. Theresa's primary school in Church End, and Queen Elizabeth School for Boys. He is studying architecture, but at the moment is enjoying a year out.

Alex's forte is topicality, so we are looking forward to seeing current local goings-on through his eyes.

VILLAGE LIFE

ALEX ATHANASIOU



ELSIE, NEAR BREAKING POINT, FINALLY SNAPPED. THIS CONTROLLED PARKING REALLY WAS THE LAST STRAW.

## They'll track you down

By Daphne Chamberlain

"You have lost an address book", said the voice at the end of the phone. "We have it here." Impossible. I never carry an address book, and my diary was on the table beside me. Had the caller rung the correct number?

He had. It was on a letter inside the book. A letter written by someone called Daphne.

So which friend owned the book? He told me the name at the top of the letter, and my flesh began to creep. I know two people of that name. One was hundreds of miles away, and the other I had never written to.

Who was this caller? Another voice took over, introducing them as a cab firm. I checked them out in the phone book, which made me less uneasy, but it was still disturbing. On the way to their office, imagination took off. What a beginning for a novel or a film! The only trouble with that line of thought was that the next step would have to be something sinister. I told myself to concentrate on the road.

Truth, however, has as many twists as fiction. The "letter" was a scribbled couple of lines I had dropped through someone's letterbox weeks ago, and forgotten all about, but it was enough to identify the owner of the (very full and much-used) book.

So, in philosophical mode, should we forget all those precepts about being tidy and well-organized and throwers-away-of-everything-not-needed? My friend didn't need to keep

that note, but it brought about the return of the book...All right, you logical thinkers, her own phone number, listed as the owner's, would have done the same, if it had been there.

What you can't argue about is the public spirit and smart detective work of Cab Driver no. 50 of Sterling Cars, Edmon-ton, who refused a reward, saying he knew what it felt like to lose something important.

## Did you know?

The Tube's billionth passenger was East Finchley resident Anna Angeli. She was presented with a free annual travelcard by London Underground in recognition of the event.

## The wonderful bi-carbonate of soda

By Lorna Roberts

Yes - bicarb.

How do I love it? Let me count the ways.

- 1 A little in a little water banishes indigestion - urgh!
- 2 One tablespoon in a pint of hot water to dissolve it and then put into a spray bottle. Use it to clean the oven. Spray on whilst still hot: Fat just crumbles into dust.
- 3 Use a pinch in a little boiled water, cooled, to soothe prickly heat.
- 4 Moisten fingertip, dab on bicarb and rub off tea and coffee stains.
- 5 A cloth wrung out in bicarbonate of soda solution wipes away spills and smells in the refrigerator.
- 6 Ants in the house move outside if dusted with it.
- 7 A dab on the toothbrush helps keep teeth whiter.
- 8 It is used in baking. In the USA it is called baking soda.
- 9 Dab on bee stings (wasps need vinegar).
- 10 It is cheaper in packets from our High Road pharmacies than in the supermarkets.

## ARTS AND CINEMA

By GEOFF GARFIELD

### Open for Business

If you have strolled past the Phoenix in the last few weeks expecting to find it closed, as indicated by yours truly, and discovered it was all systems go, you may have wondered if I had parted with my senses. Well, not quite.

As with the best-laid plans, delays over planning permission and confirmation of grants have led to a postponement of the major construction work until November, with a potential reopening in January 2002. However, while essential preparation work is being carried out it will be business as usual, and I solemnly promise not to mention any further dates until one hundred per cent guarantees are issued that action will take place. I mean to say, how much egg can one face take!

#### Festival Time

As mentioned in June, the festivals go ahead. On Saturday 14 July there is the gala opening of the second Highgate Short Film Festival, an exciting event where you will be able to put your questions to a group of film makers; get it from the horses' mouths, so to speak. A series of brand new short films will follow.

On Sundays 15 and 22 July, in cooperation with the Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies, the Jewish Film Festival begins. Here you will be able to see six full-length new Jewish films plus a number of short films. There will be introductions by the directors of some of these pieces and panel discussions.

The past few weeks have been a particularly fruitful time for cinema buffs, with some interesting movies on show. *Les Gouts des Autres* came highly recommended and did not disappoint. It is a caustic examination of the changing nature of relationships with a strong central performance from actor/writer/director Agnes Jaoui backed up by Jean-Pierre Bacri, her husband off screen. The way it identified and highlighted human traits with wit and perception was quite captivating and I can certainly add my own recommendation.

#### Off Key

*Captain Corelli's Mandolin* came with mixed reviews and I can understand why. While Cephalonia looked very picture postcard and the story was gripping, some of the acting was questionable and the dialogue was somewhat stilted. Why oh why do producers, casting directors and those with influence, persist with the star system at the cost of authenticity? John Hurt's alleged accent oscillated between Greek, Italian, Turkish and, when he thought no one was listening; I could have sworn a touch of Brummie crept in, care of Noddy Holder from Slade. Nicholas Cage sounded equally wrong. If only more attention had been paid to the casting this would have been a first class movie. Has any bright spark in movie-land ever thought of casting authentic Italians and Greeks to - you know the rest.

At the time of printing, due to the changes, I am unable to tell you what is on offer in late July, so do ring the box office on 8444 6769. Good movie viewing.

## Tim's New York debut

Tim McArthur, whose New York Ding Dong will be at the Lauderdale Gatehouse in Highgate on 25 and 26 July, has had an enormously successful 12 months during which time he has appeared as a solo cabaret artist at Pizza On The Park, Jermyn Street Theatre, Highgate's newest cabaret venue Lauderdale House and this year's Mardi Gras.

Last year he toured with Helen Lederer's One Night Stand with Her Date Tim McArthur, and has appeared on the Richard Blackwood show in a comedy scene with Lennox Lewis.

This summer he is heading for New York where he will make his US debut at Don't Tell Mama's, one the main cabaret venues in the Big Apple. These performances at Upstairs at the Gatehouse offer his UK fans a sneak preview of the New York show.

Tim will make you laugh, tug at your heartstrings with his lyrical voice, enchant you with his sincerity and make you see things in a completely new and unexpected way!

North London resident, Tim discovered Lauderdale House through a series of coincidences as a result of which he intro-

duced the Cabaret in the House series last autumn. Although he only lives around the corner he had not realised the House's potential until fellow singer Janine Clements invited him to guest at her sell-out concert at there in May 2000.

Janine's pianist, Stephen Hose, is the partner of Lauderdale House's General Manager, Katherine Ives who therefore met Tim during rehearsals.

Just over a year later cabaret is an important part of Lauderdale House's programme, and Katherine and Tim are setting up their own company, Trilby Productions, to produce and promote cabaret and new musical theatre.

The Company is being launched on Thursday 25 July with Tim's performance of his New York Show.