



Brazil Bike Ride

By Diana Cormack

Valeria Bouic of Leicester Road, East Finchley is going to cycle 450 kilometres (nearly 280 miles) in Brazil, starting at Ouro Preto and ending in Rio de Janeiro.

The ride will take her through the old gold mining state of Mina Gerais with which, although she comes from Brazil, Valeria is not familiar. However, she does know that much of the terrain is not going to be easy, for the route she is to take covers extremely steep climbs and drops, cobbled and dirt roads, bumpy and barely used farm tracks and there will be one day when about sixty cattle grids have to be negotiated!

Valeria has been in England for twenty years. She has lived in East Finchley with her husband Chris for the past seven years, and their two teenaged daughters both attended Martin and Fortismere Schools. After joining a cycling club last year Valeria read about the challenging ride, which is being held in order to raise money for

Mencap. This charity helps people with a learning disability to go to school, to get jobs, to enjoy holidays and to spend time with their friends. It also helps their families to look after them.

Saddle soap

Valeria supplements her training by cycling to work at IKEA and aims to be able to complete three to four hours non-stop before the event at the end of August. She will be part of a group of cyclists from all over Britain for the gruelling South American bike ride.

To participate Valeria has to raise £1500 by June 22 and a further £1000 by October through donations and sponsorship. If you would like to help, please send a cheque made out to Mencap Promotions to: Valeria Bouic, 66 Leicester Road, London N2.

East Finchley Community Festival

Cherry Tree Wood, Sunday 24 June
Timetable of events

Main Stage

- 12.00-12.45 Eclipse (Steel band)
- 12.45-13.25 Apple-Lips Brothers (Rhythm and Blues)
- 13.30-14.10 Project Music Workshop (Gospel)
- 14.15-14.55 Makin' Trax (Jazz/Soul)
- 15.00-15.40 Mainline (Rock)
- 15.45-16.25 Scampering Rogues (Folk)
- 16.30-17.10 House Rockers (Rock'n'Roll/Blues)
- 17.10-17.15 Raffle, Prizes
- 17.20-18.00 Fat Man Kicks Cat (Jazz/Rap/Soul)

Low Stage

- 12.00-12.25 North London Voices (Vocal Folk)
- 12.30-12.55 Sanchari (Indian Dancers)
- 13.00-13.25 London Oriental Arts (Lion Dancing)
- 13.30-14.10 Caribbean Drums (Drum Workshop)
- 14.15-14.55 Deegan Academy (Irish Dancing)
- 15.00-15.25 Cat Knight (chart Covers)
- 15.30-15.55 North London Performing Arts (Contemporary Dance)
- 16.00-16.25 Antigua Joe (Calypso/Soul)
- 16.30-16.55 Foot Loose (Line Dancing)
- 17.00-17.30 Nelsy (Columbian Dance)

Off Stage

- 13.00-14.00 Enfield Chasers (Morris Dancing)
- 13.00-15.00 Clown Jenny Mayers
- 15.00-15.40 Finchley Youth Theatre
- 16.00-16.30 Travelling Puppet Castello (Puppet Show)

Situations Vacant at Contact

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact, a registered charity based in N2, is looking for the following staff to assist with the running of various services benefiting disadvantaged people within the community

Admin Assistant to the Co-ordinator (part-time)

£12,942 - £13,381 pro rata. To provide part-time admin support to the Co-ordinator. Should be computer literate, numerate with good communication skills and helpful manner. 1-year renewable contract.

Muslim Women's Lunch Club Cook (part-time)

£6 per hour, to shop, prepare, cook and wash-up for the Muslim Women's Lunch Club at the Centre in Church Lane, N2, on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Should have food hygiene certificate and be able to prepare Halal food. 1-year renewable contract.

Please apply to: Contact, East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, 42 Church Lane, N2 8DT. Tel: 020 8444 1162.

Poet in Residence

By Daphne Chamberlain

The day before Christmas Eve, Diana Bishop of Park Hall Road was invited to apply for a six-month position as Poet-in-Residence at Keats House. "Can you imagine how thrilled I was?", she says.



Diana Bishop

She is not absolutely sure why she was approached, but obviously she is not unknown in the poetry world. Her work has been published in magazines, read on Radio 3 and 4 and spoken on television in a series of five-minute programmes some years ago.

She has also worked as an assessor for the Poetry Society, but more of that later.

To get that post in Keats House, she had to submit a sample of her poetry and a letter outlining what she would like to bring to the position, lead a workshop, and go through an interview, as did seven or eight other applicants.

Free verse

After her first engagement - a family drop-in workshop on May Day - I heard a conversation between a little boy and his father. "Dad, my poem might be read by someone in Scotland - or maybe America!" He was one of a little crowd of children who sent their own verse over London, carried by balloons.

Signs of the times

Sign on a church door:

This is the gate to heaven. Enter all by this door. (This door is kept locked because of the draught. Please use side door.)

Sign outside a second hand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Sign outside town hall due to be opened by Prince of Wales:

The Town Hall is closed until opening. It will remain closed after being opened. Open tomorrow.

English sign in German café:

Mothers, please wash your Hans before eating.

"We had a lovely day", said Diana. "I didn't quite know what to expect, but the workshop went well."

Her work with the Poetry Society has helped. She used to visit schools, and ran poetry sessions in a Kensington bookshop, but the emphasis was on reading. Her present brief is to encourage writing, too.

Working with adults and children is basically the same, she says, but children are a little shyer. "They have to be edged in. I use humour, and they like funny poems. I don't think it should end there, though. Children are quite capable of taking in serious thoughts and ideas."

The write stuff

Diana is running more family drop-in workshops, on 1 July and 2 September, between 1 and 3pm. She is also leading creative poetry writing classes for adults, from the end of May to the end of October, culminating in an evening when friends and families can hear the results.

Keats House is offering a varied and interesting programme ("Talks, Walks, Poetry and More") throughout the summer and early autumn.

For details, contact Keats House, Keats Grove, NW3 2RR - tel. 020 7435 2062, and check *THE ARCHER's What's On* each month.

The Joys of Shopping?

By Sippy Azizollah
I don't know how many of you, like me, have a great dislike of shopping.

In a supermarket do you spend hours staring at the shelves, wondering which brand of anything to put into your shopping basket? The choice we have now has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous.

You enter the shop feeling calm and confident with shopping list in hand, then the panic begins.

Soap Opera

Which washing powder do you choose? The adverts are there in your head reminding you that if you use their brand, your washing will smell like summer flowers. Another brand will see you floating through a forest of pine trees with pure white underwear. Well I want to know why my washing never smells like summer flowers, why I don't float through that pine forest and why my undies end up a murky off-white colour?

The story doesn't end there. What about the bread counter? On my list I've written 1 large brown loaf. Ok, simple enough? I don't think so!

There are large brown medium sliced, thin sliced and thick sliced. Wholemeal, Organic brown and wholemeal. Granary and organic granary. Stoneground wholemeal and its organic equivalent. I could honestly be stuck in that aisle for days, trying to choose just one loaf.

Hobnobbed

I have however forbidden myself the joy of the biscuit and chocolate aisles, as I know I'd end up having a total breakdown of the decision making process which is already at full stretch as I write. This has saved me several hours of mental torture, as I really shouldn't eat them anyway.

So if you're wandering down any supermarket aisle and confusion strikes, remember, there is someone else out there in the same predicament as you. Me.

Nouveau Décor

Antique Furniture

Sales•Repairs•Reupholstery

Soft Furnishing Service

Curtains•Bedspreads•Blinds

020 8883 0755

SEEDS SOIL

Mike, Tricia & Jimmy welcome you to
flowers by




Josephine's

58/60 High Road, East Finchley
London N2

Tel: 020 8883 3598 & 020 8444 9569

EST 35 Years PLANTS