



## From The Archer Archive



Traffic chaos in May 1994. Photo by David Tupman

**May 1994:** The early morning rush hour came to a complete standstill as a 40-foot lorry tried to turn left from the High Road into Fortis Green. *THE ARCHER* was there to record the Aberdeen-based truck stalling and causing massive traffic chaos from North Finchley to Highgate and Muswell Hill.

By David Tupman

Bertie the bollard, a much-loved friend of the paper, was knocked over again.

The local elections saw thirty years of Tory control of Barnet Council ended as no party had an overall majority. Helen Gordon, Joan Ryan and Rudi Vis were elected for the East Finchley ward.

### Count me in

*THE ARCHER*'s 'Profile of East Finchley' shared some interesting facts from the 1991 census, the results then just published. Of the resident population of 15,107, 53% were women. 57% of households were owner occupied, while 18% rented from the local authority. Surprisingly, given all the traffic, over 38% of households did not own a car. Showing a trend in London, over a third of householders live alone.

## GARDENING

### Phew, what a scorcher!

By Zena Robson

So it's going to be a hot, drought-ridden summer? Do I believe it? With the soil the way it is - no. But should the unthinkable occur, then we in rain-sodden London clay will find it cracking and turning into a passable imitation of concrete. Mulch now! I can't see a problem with well-rotted horse manure, or with mushroom compost (providing you don't use it near lime-haters), so spread it around; a few inches thick and leave the work to the worms who, by now, will have come to the surface in a desperate effort to breathe.

### Spaced out

Clematis are sprouting now - watch out for caterpillars after the juicy fat buds; a torch and a jam-jar are useful so pop out at night and have a look. Just pick the caterpillars off - what you do with them is up to you. As the shoots develop, space them out on the support and tie them in to avoid that tangled look with a cluster of flowers at the top. Climbing and rambling roses benefit from this too; try to bend the new pliable growths over into arches before tying, that way you will get more laterals developing and more flowers. String is my favourite for tying, doing less damage to stems than wire.

### Think Big

Summer containers will soon be on the go and I love them. The bigger the better as then you don't have to water so often. Try to achieve an overall triangular shape so that there is some height to add interest. Cordylines or upright fuchsias would do although both are susceptible to frosts. Trends seem to be moving away from petunias and pelargoniums etc. but I like 'em! They are easy to propagate and carefully arranged colour-schemes in overflowing pots and baskets are always show-stoppers. Don't forget about the edibles - tomatoes, peppers and courgettes are good in pots too. But it would be a good idea to set up some type of watering system with them as inconsistent watering can do a lot of damage to your crop.

## Calling all returned volunteers

By Jane Revell

Are you a returned volunteer who has worked overseas for VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) or any other voluntary organisation at some time in the past, recently or even (as in my case) thirty years ago or more?

If you are, and if you would be happy to share your experience with *THE ARCHER* as part of an ongoing series of short articles, we would very much like to hear from you. And please do send us a photo of your time there too if you can.

My own experience with VSO was in Rwanda, in central Africa, in 1972/3. I went out there to teach English at the National University in Butare in the south of the country. Four of us were placed at the university, each one being assigned to a different faculty. I got medicine. This meant that in addition to classroom teaching, I had frequent trips to the hospital to work alongside medical students and doctors, helping them with the English they needed to know for what they needed to do. I was really lucky - it was a fascinating job.

Unfortunately, our whole group of volunteers was repatriated a year early -

flown out to neighbouring Uganda over Lake Victoria in a small plane - because of concern about the growing unrest and outbreaks of violence in the country. This was in 1973, 20 years before the full-scale genocide that would take place in 1994. VSO were taking no chances - they never do.

If you should ever feel like you want a complete change from what you're doing now, an opportunity to experience a totally new way of life and a chance to give something back to a faraway community who could really use your skills, why not contact VSO to find out more? Their number is 020 8780 7200, their web site: [www.vso.org.uk](http://www.vso.org.uk).

## Breast Feeding Awareness Week

By Diana Cormack

The annual campaign run by the National Childbirth Trust and promoted by the government to encourage breastfeeding takes place from 14-20 May.

Although the NCT fully supports a mother's choice in how she decides to feed her baby, the benefits of breastfeeding are proving to have an even greater influence than previously believed. For instance, breastfed babies are generally less likely to be hospitalised and to have less serious illnesses than bottle-fed ones. The antibodies they acquire from their mother's milk not only make a healthier child, but also lead to a healthier adult. Coupled with the fact that it is free and no preparation or sterilization is needed, the only disadvantage seems to be that dads can't do it!

### Breast Value

But many young women are reluctant to breast feed because their own mothers didn't and also because members of their family discourage them. This year's campaign aims to encourage fathers,

grandparents and new mothers to see the value of breastfeeding. Unfortunately, this natural process is not always without problems and the NCT has a new national Breastfeeding Helpline, which mothers can use whether they are members or not. Just ring 0870 444 8708 to get advice from one of their breastfeeding counsellors. The earlier the problem is tackled, the better; and the service is free. There are three trainee breastfeeding counsellors in Haringey NCT.

Some mothers are self-conscious about breastfeeding, particularly in public places, even though it just looks as if they are giving the baby a cuddle. However, current members of East Finchley NCT say that they have had no problems feeding their babies anywhere in the local area.

### Planning application update

## Blight control

By Helen Day

The planning application for 2C Fortis Green has been refused. However this may not be the end of it as the developers may alter the plans and resubmit them to the council.

This is what happened at the site of the bungalow in Park Road. In this case the council confused residents in the area, by sending out two letters informing them of a two-storey application.

Then residents received a third letter informing them that the three-storey application had been refused. So we must conclude that the protesters' hard work had some pay back as the plans were altered to a more acceptable construction.

### Stage management

One resident of Leslie Road told us that the council has been very uninformative about the application for 201 High Road. On contacting the council all they would say was that the application has to go through a lot of stages, yet they would not say what stage the application was at.

Therefore she has written asking for information; and she has asked about the contaminated land, as many years ago there was a petrol station on this site. At the time of going to print there was no answer from the council.

### 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 8446 3571

Visitors always welcome

### Special Notice

Log on & Listen in to .....

City Voice Internet Radio

<http://www.cityvoice.cjb.net>

Every Sunday at 11:45am

Rev Jim Patterson will present his message

live from the Finchley Elim Pentecostal Church,  
Salvation Army Hall, Hertford Road, East Finchley, N2.

Our Sunday morning Family service with facilities for children starts at 11:00am ~ Visitors will always be welcome



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.