



EAST FINCHLEY FAMILIES

The Surreys

By Daphne Chamberlain

"My dad's a walking encyclopaedia," said Kevin Surrey. His dad, Terry, had been telling me tales of East Finchley. Terry's own father, born in a cottage next to the recently demolished George, remembered animal skulls (probably from the Hogmarket) discovered beneath a dried-out pond in Market Place.

The pond was part of "the Lawn", now a children's playground, where young Terry tunnelled through "ice mountains", cleared from the roads and dumped there.

His paternal great-grandfather lived in Verandah House, before it became the Abreys' laundry in the Walks, and his paternal grandfather, killed in the First World War, was a local gravedigger.

Wartime Childhood

When World War Two started, Terry was nine, and living by the Duke of Cambridge in Luck's Yard, a builder's yard run by Mr Luck, the Church Lane undertaker. Six months after the family moved to Park Road, the infamous landmine fell in Luck's Yard, killing neighbours and friends, demolishing their old house, and ripping the roof from the new one.

"There was silence, then a bang and terrible screaming. We were in our Anderson shelter, reinforced by Dad with a yard and a half of concrete, but we had to spend the rest of the night in the The Merry Miller shelter, because they said there was an unexploded bomb."

The biggest local employers, he says, were The Merry Miller bakery in the Walks and Simms, the Oak Lane factory where his mother made wartime munitions. "Almost everyone had some connection with them."

His father, apprenticed to a garage on the site of the late Texaco garage, later worked for Freemans furniture shop. Terry, who went to Holy Trinity and Tollington schools, delivered newspapers for Brysons and United Dairies milk (by horse and cart to the Grange), and rode a trade-bicycle for Walters, the greengrocer.

Fun & football

There were "lovely times" at a Youth Club run by Mr Logan, where the Youth Theatre is today, and football with the Under-20s Club in Allder School and trophy-winning Finchley Athletic, who held club meetings above the



Terry Surrey (centre) with Finchley Pearly "Uncle" Charlie Smith (right) and Homsey Pearly (left).

Duke of Cambridge when Mr McGhee was landlord.

A lesser man might boast about producing the biggest marrow from East Finchley allotments, but, as Terry admits with a grin, there were only two entries.

Terry Surrey and his wife

have lived at Strawberry Vale since the estate opened. Recently, they have had to cope with the death of their son, Colin, in a road accident.

Speaking of East Finchley's erosion by property developers, Terry says, "I hate all this pulling down".

Our Modern House

The owners of the house in Lincoln Road write: **It had always been our dream to create and design our own family house; it was something we had been thinking about on and off for over ten years.**

About four years ago we spent a lot of time looking for a suitable property to convert but could not find anything; then we saw the site for sale in East Finchley. We have lived in the area for over thirty years and during our searches became increasingly convinced that we didn't want to move very far from a place where we were happy in.

We researched the possibility of building a new house and did the maths. It seemed possible so almost three years ago we took the plunge - that first scary step - and bought the site. Planning took nearly a year and last September we finally started building.

It has been the most exciting and most stressful thing we have ever done and hopefully it will be the most worthwhile.

The final design is adventurous but simple and planned to bring as much light inside as possible. It is made from sustainable materials and is very eco-friendly; much time

and consideration was given to how it would blend into its location whilst still retaining its modern design features.

Many people have expressed a great deal of interest, including Channel 4 and, on the whole, the neighbours seem to prefer it to the derelict buildings which once stood in its place.

We hope to be adding something of interest to the rich and varied architecture of the area, but our next step will be adding those touches to a new house to make it into a new home.

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East Finchley

Community Festival

Sunday 24 June 2001

Once again, the East Finchley Festival committee is revving up for the great day in Cherry Tree Woods in June. With the help of the weather last year, the Festival went with a swing and it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves.

This year we hope to make the day even better by adding to our band of regular stallholders. As well as goodies to munch and crunch, we are looking for stallholders who have goods to sell. These can be craft products, perhaps a new line in fashion or children's clothing or inexpensive toys for the children. You may have a cause to promote, or an organisation or business that needs a space to stimulate local interest. We

average about 5000 visitors on the day of all ages who come for interest, entertainment and a little bit of self indulgence.

Perhaps you would like to help either with the organisation of the Festival or setting up on the day in Cherry Tree Woods. We would welcome your extra pair of hands. If you are interested, contact Hazel Turvey on 020 8444 5904 for more details.

ARTS AND CINEMA

BY GEOFF GARFIELD

The good, the bad...

What do you want to hear, the good news or the bad news? If, like me, you go for the worst scenario first, then I have to tell you that the Phoenix will be closing from mid

July (date to be announced) until September.

Now for the good news. When it surfaces again, a new foyer will be there to greet you. As detailed in previous articles, this is an essential part of the refurbishment programme. The money raised came from the successful Phoenix Fast Forward Fund, Friends of the Phoenix - including such luminaries as Mike Leigh, Michael Palin and Victoria Wood - and a generous grant of £85,000 from the London Arts Regional Arts Lottery Programme - try saying that quickly! Thanks to all those who participated in getting us to this stage.

...and the special

The Phoenix, whilst recognising its place in British cinema history (being the oldest serving purpose-built cinema, opened in 1910, Grade II listed), doesn't like to stand still, so before the July closure there are special occasions to bring to your attention. Barnet Summer Arts Celebration, *Streets Ahead*, and the second Highgate short film festival will take place in June/July. During early July the cinema will be showing new Jewish films in collaboration with the Oxford Centre for Yiddish Studies Summer School and, of course, the Sunday afternoon discussions in the Focus on Film Making series in association with the Bull Arts Centre in Barnet.

However, there is also the meat in the sandwich (spoken like a true vegetarian) - the monthly programme for May.

4-25 May *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* with Nicholas Cage and Penelope Cruz.

25 May *The Dish*, an Australian drama comedy.

The Sunday matinees are:

13 May - *The Big Afternoon*, a discussion with Alex Gordon and Ellen Cheshire in conjunction with the pocket essential film guide, followed by *The Big Sleep* and *The Big Lebowski*.

20 May - a vampire double, *Nosferatu* with *Shadow of the Vampire*

27 May - a treat for Jacques Tati fans - count me in - *M Hulot's Holiday* and *Mon Oncle*.

So there is no reason to leave town, not at least until mid July (even then don't disappear, the local traders need your business). Good movie viewing.

Kids on the Web

By Diana Cormack

In a scheme run by the London Tourist Board, children from Holy Trinity School, Egan's Close, East Finchley were twinned with the Science Museum.

Having visited the museum the nine year olds worked hard in both the classroom and the school's computer lounge reviewing and reporting on the visit, then used their work to write a page on the Tourist Board's website.

The resulting pictures, poetry, reports, surveys and travel information are all their own work and can be seen on www.londontown.com/kids.

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