



## Mission Antarctica

By Femke van Iperen

A local documentary film maker from Brackenburg Road crossed one of the most dangerous seas in the world to document a clean-up operation of one of the last uncultivated places on earth.



Michal Avni McEwen decided to join Mission Antarctica to help publicise it. The expedition, in cooperation with a variety of governments, has been clearing out chemical and other detritus deposited by global research bases located within the area despite its protection by a globally signed treaty.

Michal was sponsored by Foruninvest and became a UNESCO Envoy. She recounted how the crew travelled on an eight-person yacht *The Pelagic*, led by a renowned skipper, Skip 'Novak'. They went via Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world, through to Drake sea passage. "It was very scary, none of us had ever sailed in such rough seas", she said.

The expedition also did local research, visited a British Post Office which is operational several months a year, and saw many of the bases. Michal said, "The rubbish is mainly from the Russians, they are so poor, they can't ship it out. There is tons of it." She

explained that the Russians are the only group to stay behind during the winter and some of the workers have been there for years on end.

Michal said she was particularly worried about the amount of melting ice. Antarctica holds 70% of the world's fresh water and many scientists claim that events in this area could have a direct effect on us, including flooding as a consequence of global warming. "I talked to some scientists there and although no one knows for sure that the problem is generated by us, we might as well keep it clean," she said.

Although Michal had problems with cold batteries for her filming equipment, drew on all her resources to provide regular meals for the group, and had to eat bananas to combat seasickness, she was happy with the material brought back. The final film is full of tranquil pictures of seals and icebergs, and has been shown at various public screenings.

## E-mail from New York

Since 11 September we have all had to cope with what's screaming at us from our television screens and newspapers. But most of us also wonder; what about the Americans? *THE ARCHER* asked some American friends and USA-based families of East Finchley residents about their current feelings and plans for one of the biggest American family get-togethers, Thanksgiving Day.

A local resident whose daughter lives in New York, said, "The Americans are determined [to celebrate the event] and at this moment there is intense patriotism. Although Americans celebrate their freedom on this day, they feel as though they've lost it."

Her daughter Charlotte, who lost a friend on the fatal Boston-LA flight, wrote in an e-mail: "The mood here is scared to travel. People will still go home for Thanksgiving, but will avoid air travel, especially overseas, and will drive or take trains instead... Thanksgiving travel, which is always a nightmare for US air-traffic control, will be a big theme for people who want to get on with their lives."

### Making light of the situation

Some people wrote about their current feelings, and Charlotte's friend, who was just two buildings away from the World Trade Centre when it was attacked, said, "Now I have no real external pain; it is internal, for it involves the visual of all the images that I saw." She ended by saying, "I will be fine (once I have my emotional breakdown and a good solid cry) and continue to make light of the situation as my way of handling it."

Of the disaster site, Charlotte wrote: "Ground zero is still burning and the air is acrid, and thick dust lies everywhere despite several inches of rain in the last couple of weeks. Really strange to see crumpled bombed-out burnt buildings in the financial district, like a freakish overlay. It is now the number one tourist attraction in Manhattan."

Charlotte added, "There is anger in the heartlands, sadness and determination in NYC and Washington." She finished with a touching note for her mother, "All in all very sad, you would hate it here."

## Sofa, so good and better

By Diana Cormack

Many readers will have had sympathy with Daphne Chamberlain's problem aired in the August "Soapbox" when she was trying to dispose of her old sofa bed.

However, there is good news for those of you who can't bear to chuck out unwanted furniture which you feel could surely be of use to someone else. There is a furniture-recycling project that may be able to take the stuff off your hands!

Moxon Street Enterprises is a mental health charity that provides training and work experience for people with mental health problems or learning disabilities. Its schemes include developing office and computer skills; training in basic catering skills; as well as working with furniture.

Manager Alan Green is trying to move from the more mundane tasks to introduce those which provide more variety, interest and inspiration.

### Sitting Pretty

Variety can certainly be used to describe the furniture recycled at the centre in High Barnet. Unwanted wooden furniture is collected, re-vamped and recycled back into the community. In partnership with Barnet College, a tutor teaches techniques which have

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### They thought it was over... well it ain't yet

Cast your mind back twelve months to that inglorious day at Wembley when England came to say farewell to the grand old stadium.

The stage was set for a re-run of England's greatest triumph, the 1966 World Cup Final, as England faced Germany on the hallowed turf. Except it wasn't, it was Keegan's cloggers versus the pride of Germany and it all ended in tears, Keegan's tears. It was over. England's finest hackers and hoofers were faced with the prospect of struggling to finish second in their qualifying group and having to play off against some bunch of talented ball players for a chance to go to Japan next summer. Keegan cried, quit and cried again on prime time television. "I'm not good enough" he said, and I agreed.

Then we got the Howard and Peter show as two failing managers forced a dull draw with Finland and lost to Italy. The bad old days of English football had returned to delight the Scots, Welsh and Irish everywhere. Then it happened; in a fit of sanity the men in suits appointed someone named after a mobile phone and suddenly patriotism was back in fashion.

Sven became 'Super Sven', England stopped losing and went to Munich. In a weirdly ironic game in the stadium where Germany had won the 1974 World Cup 'Sven's Sophisticates' did the almost implausible, they won 5-1. Suddenly jingoism was back. Who cared if it was only a football match, David Beckham was no longer called the stupid half of Dumb and Dumber, he was a hero and all across the country poor, misguided souls started christening their kids Beckham in his honour. All it took was a draw against Greece and England could be proud again.

For a man like me, watching the farce unfold in my local pub, the whole business stank. England had qualified by not being England and Beckham had succeeded by not behaving like an English footballer.

The traditional English game is not based on skill, it is based on speed, brutality, hope and desperation. The traditional English footballer trains on burgers and lager, relaxes by getting drunk and thinks that drink and violence are the secret of success. Bring in a Swede who believes in skill, more skill and a bit more skill for luck and make a non-drinking, married, father-of-one captain and guess what? England stop being England and win things. I just knew that it wasn't the old England when Sven dropped a couple of pissheads from the squad, but don't tell the lads at the bar, they're drinking their way to Tokyo already and if you thought it was all over, well it ain't yet, there's the World Cup itself still to come.

## FINCHLEY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

COME & GROW with us in our NEW LOCATION

**Holy Trinity Primary School Eagans Close N2**

Sundays 11:00am (Parents & Children welcome)

*Refreshing spiritual lives in Finchley since 1937*

For more information contact 020 8364 0469

www.cityvoice.org.uk e-mail jim@cityvoice.org.uk

## 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**