



In Search of Stanley

By Martin Earl

Stanley went to Africa to look for Livingstone, but in East Finchley it is we who must look for Stanley - or, to be more precise, the Stanley Road Playing Fields. Researchers at *THE ARCHER* have been tracking down the history of this full size, floodlit football pitch, asking why it is underused and whether there is a danger that it will be lost to some development scheme.

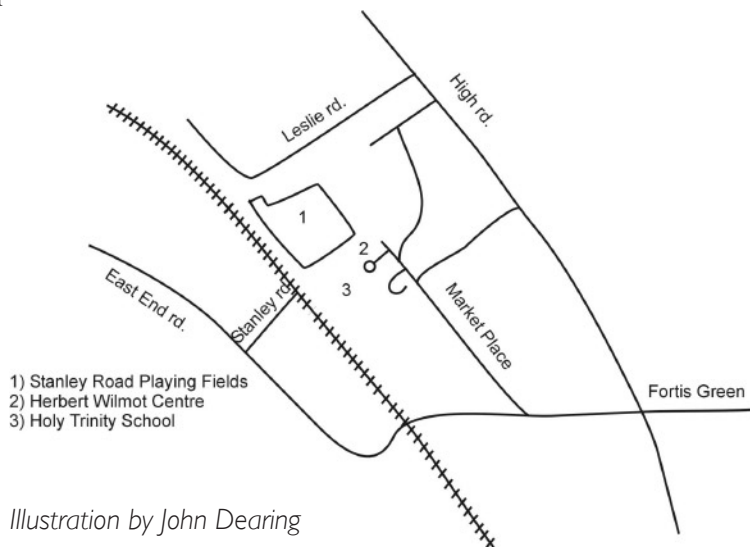
If you are not sure where this mystery site is, please see the sketch map.

To go back many years, the land was originally held by the Finchley Charities - under an agreement in the Chancery Court on 2 July 1892. It appears to have been leased to the Council of Middlesex in 1940 and sold to them in 1956 as a sports ground for educational purposes. It is now owned by Barnet Council.

The site was developed along with the Herbert Wilmot Centre, and in the 70s pop concerts were held there, apparently with famous names. Does anyone remember this?

Foul

In 1994 the Stanley Road Playing Fields Association was set up to save the site for football. The Council gave it a two-year lease at a peppercorn rent with the option of a further 27 years. The Association planned a £500,000 lottery scheme for a multi-use, astro-turfed pitch, with a separate training ground and new changing rooms. But this plan was scuppered when Barnet demanded full rent and commercial rates.



1) Stanley Road Playing Fields
2) Herbert Wilmot Centre
3) Holy Trinity School

Illustration by John Dearing

Used and abused

Since then the Association has been doing its best without council funding to keep the site for football, with teams playing weekly, and some use by Holy Trinity School. Mrs Julie Chrysostomou, chair of the Association, said that the site was being weeded and resurfaced as it had become overgrown and misused by dog walkers.

The Council have now said that from next year they want to retake the site to develop it, and that any development, (which

might involve re-situating the Herbert Wilmot Centre), will include an astro-turfed pitch. Mrs Chrysostomou said that under a covenant the Council must keep the site for sport in line with the original aims of the Finchley Charities.

Recent improvements to the Herbert Wilmot Centre mean that they no longer provide changing facilities for teams using the pitch. However it is available for letting.

Enquiries should be made to Mrs Chrysostomou on 020 8368 9897.

Exploitation of East Finchley

By Tony Roberts

Those of you who read *THE ARCHER* regularly will have recently noticed an increase in complaints about developers taking over sites to build blocks of flats, increasing the demand on local street parking and sometimes invading privacy.

Well, this is nothing new. Finchley has been a source of exploitation ever since it was carved out of the great Forest of Middlesex in Saxon times and given by the King to the Bishops of London as a source of income and raw materials for his Fulham estate.

Using the work of local historians, we plan in the next few issues to trace the exploitation of East Finchley from then on, through the ages to the present time.

The first article will be 'The Bishops' Carve-up', examining how East Finchley fared under these absentee landlords.

Whether you consider exploitation to be a dirty word may depend on your politics. We shall of course attempt to remain neutral, leaving you to decide whether the developments were beneficial or not.



The Duke of Cambridge Ladies outing 1946. Photo submitted by Roy Smith

Do you remember?

By Roy Smith

I live in Church Lane, and was born in Norfolk Close in 1965.

My Nan, Ethel Rutt, lived in East Finchley from the late '30s/early '40s. She very recently died at the age of 96 having lived in sheltered accommodation in East Finchley during her latter years. She was a lovely strong individual with a good sense of humour and unique wisdom. Of course, I'm really sad to see her go.

I thought readers of *THE ARCHER* might be interested to see a picture of the Duke of Cambridge outing from 1946, as some of them may have memories from or near to that time.

The Duke of Cambridge still continues with that name and is located next to Norfolk Close. Ethel Rutt, my Nan, is the third lady to our left of the bus driver.

East Finchley Methodist Church

has an evening of poetry and music entitled **Tongues of Fire.** Sunday 14 October at 8pm, Admission is free but a collection for UNICEF will be made. Contact 0208 346 7325 for more information.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Words fail me...

It's one minute after midnight on 14 September. Today is deadline day and I'm lost for words. Four days ago I knew what sacred cows I was going to drag screaming and kicking to the slaughter, when just after two, the phone rang. The voice on the end was almost hysterical, it didn't speak, it screamed, "Put the TV on. They've blown up America". Since then nothing has been quite the same and I've been at a loss for words.

The images of the World Trade Centre being taken out by terrorists flying planes full of innocent passengers into it are etched on my brain. I can't get rid of the stench of the smoke and the dust hangs like a pall across my eyes as the twin towers collapse again and again in waking dreams. And the world asks why?

As Ronald Reagan said, 'America fought the last two wars in Europe and we'll fight the next one there'. No one ever thought that the chickens could come home to roost. They thought that terrorist bombs blew people up in Paris, Rome, Jerusalem, London and Belfast. Americans bombed: they weren't bombed. Americans did it overseas. Now it has come home, now America has been shocked out of its complacency and the body count has begun.

By the time you read this, the dead will have been counted. From the 266 on the planes, via the 150+ at the Pentagon to the 4,500+ in New York, they will be named, numbered and buried. And then will come the revenge. Will it be Afghanistan, Iraq, the West Bank? America, backed by NATO, will 'do what a superpower's gotta do' and the world will become a more dangerous place. Meanwhile, all we can do is mourn the dead, comfort the bereaved and try to learn from what happened on 11 September 2001; in the knowledge that America and, for that matter, the rest of the world will never be quite the same again.

To think that it is less than ten years since America triumphantly announced that the end of the Cold War marked the 'end of history'. Oh boy, how wrong can you get, because history has just begun anew.

(Normal service will be resumed next month)

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