



## A hole in my shoe

By Femke van Iperen

Some traditional trades have managed to survive dot coms and mass produce. Whilst one shoemaker on the High Road was forced to close this summer, at 1a Manor Park Road you can still find the red door of a typical shoe shop: John's Workshop.

This colourful shop of John the Shoemaker, a conventional shoemaker from Cyprus, is unusual as he still practises his profession by hand. He has owned the shop for about eight years and despite dominant competition from cheap materials for shoes that rely on replacement rather than repair, he is happy to survive in this way.

Though the shop is tucked away at the back of the village, customers regularly come in for a chat. John said, "It's like a communal, non-business agreement". Mr. Rodgers, an established customer for many years, habitually passes by for a cup of tea. He said, "John is a first-class shoe repairer, who goes out of his way to satisfy his customers". Another customer added: "A very honest craftsman is hard to find these days, one who knows what he is doing and who takes the time to talk to you like a human being". Although this kind of business might predominantly attract an older generation, the shop is also used by a younger, trendier age group.

### Cobblers

Despite everything, John's shop still exists. But times are hard. Whilst scrutinizing a leather belt that one of the guys bought on the market for a fraction of the retail price, John looked worried. "I can't even buy it from the wholesaler for that money", he said. About the future John commented: "As soon as little shops all go down, the larger monopolies are bound to put the price up, so the customer will have no choice but to pay more anyway! Change has never been any good in my view. People always pay more in the end!"

Although East Finchley has lost many small traditional trades over the years, several have remained. Butchers, flower shops, specialised electrical shops, and green-grocers are still found in the Yellow Pages. There are only two large supermarkets in the area, and offers by two giant fast food- and supermarket-chains for a new development ground on the High Road have reportedly been denied by the council.

## GARDENING

### Spring into action

By Zena Robson

As I write this at the beginning of August, I am in a state of shock – bulbs are already in garden centres! I haven't recovered from the rush for summer bedding once the sun came out, never mind contemplating buying bulbs now!

Anyway, tulips shouldn't be planted until October or early November... but when you read this I shall probably be elbowing my way to the boxes with the rest of them on the assumption that if I leave it any later the best ones will have gone! Look out for Lilies and Alliums as well as more traditional bulbs and if you have a dry stony but sunny area, look for gorgeous cerise-coloured little *Gladiolus byzantinus*. All bulbs rot in soggy soil so use grit under them when planting and remember that most daffodils fail to flower because they are not planted deeply enough.

### It aster be colourful

September can be a time when the garden lacks colour. If yours does, think about planting some Asters. *Aster novi-belgii* is somewhat prone to mildew and needs preventative spraying with a fungicide; if you don't like sprays stick with the *novi-angliae* group such as 'Harrington's Pink' which, like the rest of this group, will grow to 120cm. Others to look for are the *ericoides* and *cordifolia* types carry sprays of tiny flowers along their stems, and the *frikartii* types with much bigger flower-heads than the norm. None of these get mildew. Also, what about some *Anemone hybrida* in pinks, whites and cerises; they don't mind a bit of shade and if you plant 'Honorine Jobert' at the back of the border she will rise above the rest giving a satisfying display of white flowers on erect stems. And then there's *Rudbeckia* from the 210cm 'Herbstsonne' to the more usual *fulgida speciosa* at 70cm. They all like sun and some moisture.

### Cut up

It's time to start raising the height of the cut on your lawn mower and to think about applying weed and/or moss killer. If you're been waiting to sow a new area, now is the time. But be sure that the area is completely free of perennial weeds or they'll be popping up through your new greenery. You may have to wait until next spring before you can give a first cut or you may have a chance in late autumn; either way the grass should be at least 5cm long.

## On location at East Finchley Tube Station

By John Dearing

East Finchley tube station is a prime example of a public building in the Art Deco style, and its motif, the statue of *THE ARCHER* is the icon of East Finchley (and the symbol of this newspaper). Many producers of films, TV programs and advertisements have recognised what an atmospheric location it makes.

Last month's *ARCHER* related how a re-union in "Home and Away" was filmed there, and at the beginning of August, a student film crew was seen working on a drama 'short', provisionally called "Manhattan/London". At the end of July, a commercial for Hewlett-Packard was made here, but has yet to be shown.

In the spring of this year, Nestlé filmed the latest in a series of advertisements for Aero chocolate on the station platform. It shows a man approaching the kiosk on the southbound platform, and asking for an Aero bar. The kiosk attendant hands him the chocolate and places a mouse on the counter, which proceeds to perform tricks with a hula-hoop. The man, content with Aero, declines the mouse, which looks endearingly sad (aaah!). You can download the advert



Above: the Aero ad and below filming in progress - photo by John Dearing

from the Internet, and also an animation of the mouse; just search for "Nestlé Aero".

Filming has also taken place at East Finchley tube station for the feature film *Doctor Sleep*, whose cast includes Goran Visnjic (Luca Kovac in *ER*) and *Mad Dogs* with Paul Barber (Denzil in *Only Fools*

and *Horses*).

The cast of *Eastenders* the prime time soap opera has also been seen here. Most recently, Mark Fowler (played by Todd Carty) was seen taking the tube after a hospital appointment where, apparently, he was told that despite having AIDS, he had another 20 years to live. Not surprisingly, he was celebrating! Some while ago, Matthew Rose (Joe Absolom) made his escape by tube after arguing with Steve Owen (Martin Kemp, who is soon to leave the series).

Lastly a commercial for WKD, apparently an 'alcopop' with a "wicked side" was made here for Tangent TV.

Thanks are due to Kate Blow (LT Commercial Film Liaison Manager) for much of the information in this article and to Catherine Saycell of Ptarmigan Consultants for the picture from the Aero advertisement.



## YOUNG ARCHER

### Nicknames

By Diana Cormack

When I was a child I couldn't understand why my dad's friends used to call him Taffy. Other men got called Taffy too, which was just as puzzling. Now I know that people from Wales are given that nickname. I think it is because the river on which its capital city Cardiff stands is called the Taff.

There is an old rhyme dating back to the battles between England and Wales hundreds of years ago. It starts with "Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a thief," but I'll have to stop there because nowadays nasty references to people's race are unacceptable. But we do still call the French "frogs" and they call the English "le Rosbif," though this is about eating habits rather than being totally insulting.

When I cried after being called names, my mother (a Geordie from Newcastle-upon-Tyne) comforted me by saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me." Unfortunately, this isn't always true because some people can be very upset

by such things. Nicknames can be as cruel as name-calling, particularly if they refer to someone's appearance, but they can also be funny or descriptive.

In history we have Ethelred the Unready. What wasn't he ready for? Then there's Alfred the Great, Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror. But I have to go back to Wales for the most necessary descriptive use. Because so many people have the same surname there has to be a way of sorting out who is who. Jobs and homes are often used for this, so you get Jones the milk, Jones the shop, Jones the bungalow, Jones Caemawr Farm, etc. There are some nasty nicknames too, but I won't go into that!

### Clever Clogs Corner

The word "nickname" comes from "an eke-name." Long ago "eke" meant "also."

Can you join these nicknames to where people come from?

Cockney	England
Geordie	Liverpool
Brummie	Scotland
Scouser	London
Mancunian	New Zealand
Manxman	Ireland
Glaswegian	USA
Jock	Birmingham
Limey	Isle of Man
Yank	Manchester
Kiwi	Glasgow
Paddy	Newcastle-upon-Tyne

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