



KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

What the Butler Saw...

Welcome, my good friends, to the show that never ends. Welcome to the Royal Family, an everyday story of dysfunctional regal folk. Marvel at the man who puts the toothpaste on the royal toothbrush, gaze with amazement at the man who holds the sample bottle for the heir to the throne and read all about it in a tabloid near you. This is not so much what the butler saw as what the butler sold. Terrible, isn't it? Well, no it's not; it's just in the long tradition of your average royal family.

Royal romps

The only problem is where to start. Before anyone gets too excited about gay royal servants, we used to go in for gay royals. Edward II, Richard II, James I and William III all preferred dukes to duchesses. When it comes to philandering we can forget about Charles and Camilla frolicking in the bushes. Charles II had about 20 illegitimate kids, William IV fathered 10, and George IV kept a lock of hair as a souvenir of every woman he slept with. When he died he had over 7,000 'souvenirs'.

In case you reckon that our current bunch don't go in for that sort of thing it's time to think again. You need to be pretty warped to collect dead flowers from the graves of deceased royals, but that was one of Victoria's hobbies. It started with Albert and just went on from there. Apart from sleeping with an average of three different women per week for 50 years, Edward VII faithfully recorded the height and weight of everyone who visited him at Sandringham.

Cruel and unusual

But royals aren't just about madness, they are about insensitivity, violence and that unique brand of selfishness that comes with inbreeding. Elizabeth I dealt with the plague that killed 30,000 Londoners in 1603 by decamping to Windsor where she set up a gallows and threatened to hang anyone who followed her. When King John discovered that his queen was having an affair he had her lover killed and his corpse strung up over her side of the bed. How times have changed; Charles' idea of a honeymoon treat was to force Diana to listen to him reading philosophy, not, of course, that either of them understood it.

Celebrating

Finchley's Charter

By Daphne Chamberlain

On 5 October 1933 the Borough of Finchley received its royal charter. Norman Burgess, the Finchley Society Archivist, remembers it well - and wonders whether any of you do too.

Next year the Society is organising a celebration for the 70th anniversary. It will take place in Avenue House on Saturday 4 October 2003, and include an exhibition from the archives. Not only the actual Charter, but also copies of the brochure and programme which were on sale at the time will be exhibited. Former Councillors will be invited to attend.

Norman Burgess, who was born in East End Road, was a small boy at the time. He was taken to Avenue House along with crowds of other Finchleyans, to see the Earl and Countess of Athlone, the representatives of George V.

Perhaps some of you were there, or maybe you were enjoying your own celebrations elsewhere.

If you have memories, photos or

other material to do with that day, the Finchley Society would love to hear from you. You can contact Norman Burgess at 28, Vines Avenue, N3 2QD, Tel 020 8346 6337.

Find out more about the Finchley Society on 020 8883 2633 or www.finchleysociety.org.uk.

Remembrance Day

By Erini Rodis

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey: 11 November 2002.

The American Women's Association Remembrance Service ceremony was closed before we all gathered in the lounge to take coffee and chocolate brownies, surrounded by Americans. I was carefully hiding my sandwich collection, when I heard a distinctly British voice behind me, "Which of the States do you call home, then?" "East Finchley!" I said, turning to face the Mayor of Woking, seated in a corner.

"Really? ... I used to work there!" she said. It turns out that Councillor Mrs Mehala Gosling used to be the Head Teacher of Hampstead Garden Suburb Primary School, over 20 years ago. She was also the President of Barnet NUT at the time when Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education.

Do any of you remember being taught by the current Mayor of Woking?



The Dick Turpin - photo by David Tupman

Dick Turpin's Century

The Dick Turpin is 100 years old on 18 December. The licence of the Dick Turpin is a continuation of one from an earlier cottage beer house called the Bricklayers Arms.

The old site of the house is now occupied by 1 - 6 Oak Lane. In 1902 it was described as being the oldest premises in Highgate Division, and may have been 15th or 16th century. It was probably John Tomkinson who first used it as a beer house in the 1850s (certainly it was a beer house by 1857).

The last licensee was a William Brookin from Pimlico. The Brookins themselves were described as "very respectable" by a local constable, but the old house was by then beyond repair and had been described as "not being fit for a pig to live in". William died in January 1902 aged 61, and his widow Maria Louis, aged 53, applied for a licence on a new house in March of 1902. The old house was pulled down later that year.

Turpin's Oak

On Thursday 18 December 1902 the transfer of the licence

was completed and the house opened. It was renamed the Dick Turpin, after Turpin's Oak, which stood at the end of Oak Lane. When this tree was finally cut down in the 1950s it was full of old musket balls. Although the area was infamous for highwaymen like Turpin there is no evidence that Turpin ever robbed anyone here. It was more likely named after the landowning family of the same name who lived here in Finchley during the 18th century.

The Bald Face Stag part 2 will now appear in January

Diamond Cutting in East Finchley

By Hugh Petrie

Diamond cutting is a thing we normally associate with Hatton Garden rather than East Finchley. However in the 1930s there was a diamond factory at 94 - 96 Great North Road.

It was founded by a Mr Arthur Stanley Cooper, who came to East Finchley in 1931. He had wanted to build a factory in Hatton Garden, but was

unable to find a site suitable. By 1935 A.S. Cooper was established throughout the world as one of the most up-to-date dealers of industrial diamonds and diamond cutting tools.

The outline of the factory is clearly visible on the large 25 inch scale maps of East Finchley 1935. The factory is a bit of a mystery, as its location was just south of the old railway bridge. This means that it does not appear in local street directories (which in the 1930s start with

Brompton Grove). If it wasn't for Mr Cooper requesting compensation for damage caused to his business by the change of road name, (from The Great North Road to the High Road) by the Borough of Finchley in the middle of March 1936, we would never have known about this interesting piece of East Finchley's history. Around 1938 the factory was pulled down to make way for the new Northern Line bridge. Where it went to after this I don't know!

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