FEBRUARY 2002



Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.

### **Post-Haste**

by D. D. Hood

"Must rush to catch the post" is probably the phrase most used for ending a casual letter. No doubt it came into its own in the days when posting a letter meant that it would be collected, sorted and delivered in a reasonable amount of time. Older readers may remember when a letter posted in the morning would arrive at a local destination later that same day!

Such a service no longer exists and, for the most part, neither does the regular collection time display on pillar-boxes and outside post offices. There is now only the assurance that collections are made throughout the day with the time only of the last collection.

Am I the only one who still wants to know the time of these collections? If I ask myself why, does it make me naïve because I believe that it gives an indication of when my friends will receive my correspondence?

#### Excuse for a service

I've listened to all the explanations and excuses from the Post Office/Consignia but they do not convince me, nor do I believe that there is any longer a reason to have a first and second-class service. Just a reliable service would do!

But if I really want to know what time my communications go and be assured of them travelling with speed and reliability, I have to admit that there is only one answer. I've been forced into it, but in future I will have to e-mail my friends. Of course, this is one of the reasons why the British mail system is losing out. It's a vicious circle, which must have Rowland Hill turning in his grave!

# **LETTERS**

#### Waitrose - what you think

#### **Dear Archer**

Just a quick note to say having lived around East Finchley for 37 years, a Waitrose is exactly what the area needs. The benefits for all would be enormous.

#### **David Glick** Lincoln Road, N2

#### Dear Sir,

Waitrose? No thank you. Let's give our own community a chance, there are enough of the 'big boys' around.

#### Mrs Rogers **Edmunds Walk, N2**

#### Dear Archer,

Some time before Christmas you asked our opinion about a Waitrose store in East Finchlev. I can't think of anything better. I have lived in the borough for 79 years and we have never had a decent grocery store to go to. So how about it! I would welcome it. Happy New Year to you all .Keep up the good work.

PS There used to be a small Sainsbury's here about 65 years

**B** Rogers Homefield Gardens, N2

#### Dear Editor.

May I make the following points in connection with the proposed Waitrose development at East Finchley?

- 1) I moved form Shepherds Bush two years ago because pollution, had left me suffering from chest problems during the winter. Supermarkets increase traffic in the area, (up to 150 parking spaces included in plans). My health is greatly improved in the clearer air here. We should be trying to reduce vehicle use, not increase it.
- 2) Shoppers will be drawn away from existing facilities to the detriment of those facilities, small shops in particular usually suffer, and there are some very good suppliers of meat, fish and fruit and vegetables in East Finchley.... Customers will also be drawn away from areas where there are already supermarkets.
- 3) It is not clear how the proposals affect Cherry Tree Wood. Will the new building dominate the park, or worse take land from it?
- 4) Certainly the High Road needs better crossing facilities for pedestrians and a public toilet would be useful, but cannot these

be achieved without the funding from Waitrose.

#### John Stebbings **Stokes Court, N2**

#### **Little Princess**

I am wondering whether you could clear up a little mystery and make two people, as yet unknown to me, happy.

Just before Christmas an envelope addressed to Ron & Maisey, 55 Prospect Gardens, was delivered to my neighbour at 55 Prospect Ring. As my name is Ron, she thought it was for me, but it was not. It contained a Christmas card and a photograph of a 17 month-old girl whom the senders describe as "Little Princess". I would dearly love to trace Uncle Ron and Aunt Maisey, so as to be able to let them have the photograph. The senders were Sara and Tom Hale and their little daughter Gemma. I am sure this Ron & Maisey would be delighted with the picture, whilst Sara and Tom Hale may well be wondering why their Aunt and Uncle have not yet thanked them.

If you could help in this matter it would be very much appreciated.

Yours hopefully, R. A. Beland.

Prospect Ring, N2.

## By Sue Holliday

# What's On...

Sport, Health & Fitness Body control Pilates classes, 1-to-1 and small mat-work classes contact Deanna

Wisbey 020 8883 7029. **Tennis Club** off Southern Road, East Finchley. For details phone the membership secretary on 020 8440 6953.

Aerobics Ladies only Every Tuesday 6-7pm at The Green Man Community Centre.

Yoga and Meditation Classes, Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2 on Sundays (yoga 5.30pm; meditation class 6.45pm) and Thursdays (yoga 7.45pm; meditation class 9pm).For details phone 020 8444 7217.

Alexandra Palace Ice Rink holds skating classes and ice hockey for all ages. For info call 8365 2121.

#### Cycling

Barnet branch of the **London Cycling Campaign** have a monthly (last Thursday ) indoor meeting in North Finchley and a Sunday social ride. Call 020 8440 9080, www.come.to/BarnetLCC

#### Walks & Tours The Ramblers Association (Finchley

& Hornsey Group). For further details contact

#### Art & exhibitions

Art Classes Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm at St Peter Le Poer, Albion Ave N10. Thursdays 10am – 12.30pm & Fridays 2.30 - 5 pm Portrait & still life classes at The Old Railway Station (Cufos)The Avenue N10. Call Henry on 020 8888 5133.

The Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street London NW1, has an exhibition entitled 'Gentleman scholars and scoundrels' a story of the Spanish and Portuguese Community until 7 April.

Adult pottery classes - a chance to make your own handmade gifts. At the Green Man community centre every Tuesday 8-10pm - contact Celia Holmes on 020 8349 9315 or 07960 713 631.

What's On is free to advertise in for non-profit making organisations. Entries are limited to a maximum of 25 words Leave a message or fax your details on **08700 292 407** or e-mail the-archer@lineone.net

#### Dance & Drama

Chipping Barnet Folk Dance Club, meet Monday evenings at Church House, Wood Street Barnet. Call Vivien Mallindine 020 8883 8190 for further info.

Club Dramatika, the drama club for kids. Wednesdays after school and Saturday mornings at King Alfred School, Hampstead. Also summer holiday workshops and Drama Parties for all ages. Contact Vicky on 020 8883 1554.

Country and Barn Dancing on the first Wednesday of each month at Christ Church Whetstone Oakleigh Park, Call 020 8349 0754 for details.

Incognito Theatre workshops for children and young people on Wednesday evenings during school terms at St. Peter's Church Hall, Colney Hatch Lane, N10. For info call 020 8883 0911 or email:ITGYouth@IncognitoTheatre.com Easy Salsa etc., Colombian Party Dancing-

a 6-week course for beginners at Martin School, Various start dates, Contact Nelsy on 8444 2012. Old Time dancing and modern sequence

is held every Wednesday night at St Mary's Church Hall Hendon Lane, N3, at 7.45-10pm. Over-60s - Come dancing at Ann Owens entre, Oak Lane, Every We

### - 12.30pm. Ring 020 8346 8736 for info. Music - clubs/classes

Learn to sing at the Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane on Tuesday 2-4pm. Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm and Friday 1-3pm call 020 8455 2403 for more

Symphonic Wind Orchestra of North London seeks wind and percussion players. Rehearsals on Tuesdays 7.30-9.45pm at Brookland Junior School, Hill Top, NW11. Info from Stephen Kersley 020 8883 3365.

### Miscellaneous

The Finchley Society has a talk entitled **Old Finchley and its Surrounds** on Thursday 28 March, at Avenue House East End Road, call 020 8346 7812 for info.

Martin Schools Open Day. Martin Infant and Junior Schools 228 High Road, will be open to visitors from 1.30-3.30 pm on Wednesday 13 February.



The Phoenix Cinema, High Road, N2, is closed for refurbishment until March.

#### 🔽 Clubs & Social

Bingo! Every Monday, 7-9pm, at the Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. 30p entrance, and £2.10 for 6 books. Refreshments available. Contact Martin O'Donnell on 8883 4916 for details

East Finchley National Childbirth Trust. Are you a new mum? Join the East Finchley NCT for coffee and conversation, outings and events, etc. Contact Ann Sullivan on 020 8442 1941.

Fairacres Monday Club for Jewish people, 164, East End Road, N2. Every Monday at 1pm. For information, contact Rene or Reuby Hyams on 8883 0448 or Sylvia Lee on 8958 7878.

Finchley & District Philatelic Society 6 Feb - Display and talk by John Shaw on China, 7.30pm at Carey Rooms, Trinity Church Hall, Nether Street, N12. Contact Brian Merryweather 8444 3251 or visit www.stampdomain.com/finchley

Friendly Rubber Bridge at the Old Barn, Fallows Close, Tarling Road, Mondays 13.30 to 16.30. £1 including tea. For information call 020 8349 4613.

The Hampstead Social Group (includes East Finchley) meets most evenings, largely in members' homes for social events. Late thirties and forties age group. No membership fees, contact David Morris on 020 8455 0477

The North London Bridge Club meets Thursdays at 1.15pm at Our Lady of Muswell Parish Hall, Colney Hatch Lane, N10. Call 020 8348 3495 for details.

Muswell Hill Synagogue, 31 Tetherdown, N10, has social and educational events as well as services on Fridays and Saturdays. For info call 8883 5925 Mon-Thu 9am-3pm, Fri&Sun 10am-12.30pm.

Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge every Friday 1.30 - 5pm. Tel 020 8883 4390 for details.

The Old Barn pre-school club for children aged 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 years. Term time, Monday - Friday 9.30 - 12.30. The Old Barn Community Centre, Tarling Road. Contact 020 8349 4613 or 020 8349 1961 eves.

Parent and Toddler Group meets Tuesday Friday, 9.30-11.30 am, at Green Man Community Centre, Strawberry Vale. Families with special needs welcome. Call Julia on

Single Solution, over 30s night every Friday at Sam's Bar, Fortis Green, call 020 8802 2326 weekdays, 020 8363 2328 evenings.

#### **Performance**

The Crouch End Festival Chorus presents Mozart's Mass C minor, premier of Michael Nynam at St Josephes on 15 -16 March. Ticket available from Les Aldrich Music Centre Muswell Hill.

#### Theatre & Comedy

Incognito Theatre presents A Man For All Seasons By Robert Bolt . 3-9 February, Holly Park Road N11, For details call 020 8361 8310 or visit www.incognitotheatre.com

#### **Community**

Finchley Credit Union is at the Green Man Community Centre every Wednesday 3-5pm and at the Neighbourhood Centre, Church Lane on Wednesdays 7-8.30pm and Saturdays from 10am-12 noon.

Careers advice on hand at The Green Man Community Centre, every Tuesday 10am - 12.30pm. Individual employment and training needs and help with CVs.

Muswell Hill Toy Library, is open Mondays 2-3.30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30am – 12 noon. Tel 020 8444 0244/ 8489 8774.

Majjo's is the place to buy your homecooked Indian food - freshly cooked vegetarian food also halal chicken and lamb - with the best samosas!

#### **Open Tuesday to Sunday from** 10.30 am - 10.30 pm.

Please place your order for parties entertained in your house with home-cooked Indian food on 8883 4357.

Est. 18 years.

#### 1 Fortis Green, London N2 9JR

# For that special occasion ... or a simple meal

All your cuts of meat can be purchased from

# Tom's **Butchers**

100 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9EB. 020 8883 8472