



Virginia Goldswain 1943 -2002

It is with enormous sadness that I am writing to report the death of Virginia Goldswain of Summerlee Avenue. She died of cancer on Tuesday February 5, aged 58.

Virginia was a well known figure in East Finchley, a generous and extrovert personality who had a word for everyone as she walked around the village.

Virginia lived in North London all her life and had a host of friends both in the area and elsewhere. Always full of vitality, she embraced life and all it had to offer.

Virginia was Head of Geography at Hendon School throughout most of her working life until she took early retirement four years ago. She will be remembered as a talented and very fair teacher, a 'real character', by her colleagues and the generations of pupils she taught. They will also remember the geography field trips which she arranged each year to the Peak District, and the school concerts when she always joined in with the flutes!

Virginia was a keen tennis player for many years at the Muswell Hill URC tennis club; even after she had given up playing she would enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with her friends at the club.

Virginia battled courageously against cancer since May 2000; she had nothing but praise for her excellent treatment at Middlesex hospital, from her GP and later for the sensitive care and support of the North London Hospice. Those of you who support the Hospice can be assured of the excellent work being done there.

Virginia leaves behind a brother David, and his family in Durham Rd, another brother Richard in Sheffield and her three children Edward, Emily and Lucy who will remain in Summerlee Avenue. The children supported and cared for Virginia throughout her illness with exceptional strength and courage. Our love and sympathy goes out to them as they attempt to come to terms with their loss.

By Pauline Crilly, a close friend from Summerlee Avenue.

LETTERS

Check it out

Dear Sir

Apart from the local convenience of the possible siting of a Waitrose Store near East Finchley Station, I would suggest that Waitrose are the most civilized purveyors of food and other items.

I refer to the fact that, in most supermarkets, one picks the items off the shelf, loads the trolley or basket and then, at the checkout, the basket or trolley is emptied, the contents clocked up and then packed into bags.

At North Finchley Waitrose, the process has been simplified. They have a "checker" picked up at the entrance which clocks up each item as it is picked from the shelf into a bag. The checker clearly shows item and price which is not always visible on the shelf. If a mistake is made, the checker allows the item to be erased.

Finally, when shopping is finished, the checker goes back into its niche and a slip is produced which then goes into a machine that clocks up all the items and allows the Waitrose credit card to be inserted for payment.

No offloading, no reloading, just into my car and off home.

Why can't other supermarkets adopt this simple procedure which makes life so much easier for the elderly shopper?

If Waitrose does come to East Finchley, can they please bring with them the civilized method of shopping checking!

Yours faithfully
Jack Shapiro
Brim Hill, N2

Waitrose worries

Dear Editor

London Borough of Barnet maintains that no planning application has yet been received for a Waitrose Supermarket opposite East Finchley tube, so it's hard to separate fact from rumour. Forecasts (apparently by Waitrose themselves) that 200 cars PER HOUR would move in and out of the store should be taken seriously. Add to this the delivery lorries and we are looking at a major and extremely detrimental environmental impact in terms of pollution and congestion.

The tailback from the Fortis Green/High Road junction is already a nightmare - how much worse will it be with the addition of shoppers from Highgate, Muswell Hill, Hampstead and the Garden

Suburb, all spreading their exhaust emissions into the woods and adjacent residential area. And before you all shout NIMBY, my own street wouldn't be affected.

If a Waitrose is as good for us as is claimed, I wonder why they need to offer the rumoured £1 million "sweetener" to get the store built. Large supermarkets kill off local trade, so I fear we would kiss goodbye to the family businesses which have served us so well in the past.

Mrs. J. Wood
Cherry Tree Road, N2

Little Princess

Dear Editor

You will be pleased to hear that, due to your publishing my letter, two ladies called at my flat on Saturday evening - one of whom was Auntie Maisey. She was delighted with the Christmas card and the lovely photograph.

She actually lives in Prospect Ring and will inform her niece and nephew of her correct address.

My thanks to you for taking the trouble to print my letter. It worked!

Yours faithfully
Ronald A. Beland
Prospect Ring, N2

What's On... By Sue Holliday

Leave a message or fax your listings to 08700 292 407.

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.

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.

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.

Muswell Hill Association holds its next meeting on Wednesday 20 March at 8 pm. Pamela Defries will deliver a talk entitled 'Gardening in Muswell Hill'. For enquiries please contact Gerry Saunders on 020 8883 7274.

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 Centre, Oak Lane. Every Wednesday, 10.30am - 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 information.

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.

Performance

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

Music in Muswell Hill presents fortepiano to the fore with Carole Cerasi, on Saturday 9 March at the United Reform Church Muswell Hill. For details tel. 020 8883 7875.

Finchley Jazz Club 11 and 25 March at Wilf Slack Pavilion, East End Rd, N3 at 8.15pm.



Keeping Time

Mrs E.H. Warne of Homefield Gardens sent in this picture of Finchley SCC Band leading a parade in Finchley Central in 1960. Mrs Warne's then 14-year-old son Phil is the lead drummer (out of step)!

Voicemail Digest

We have had a few messages in THE ARCHER voicemail box this month.

Among those who rang 08700 292405 was Mr Dobson of Southern Road who rang to voice his opposition to the rumoured Waitrose development. He cited nine objections including the destruction of local shops and the subsequent increase in traffic as people go further afield to get what they used to sell, the destruction of the village atmosphere, plus the increase in noise and chemical pollution caused by supermarket traffic. Child safety, because of increased traffic, also worried him.

Mike Nichols thought the arrival of the food giant might destabilise what is left of East Finchley village; whilst an anonymous caller was convinced that crime would increase and also pointed out that the belief that the freeholds affected were owned by one entity

is incorrect.

Meanwhile, recalling the story of people knocking walls down, Brian Marsh told us that the newest targets for vandals are the curved mirrors between Trinity Road and Manor Park Road. Apparently they were smashed and replaced, only to be smashed again within days!

Stella Bacharius (sorry if the name is spelt incorrectly) has just read her first ARCHER and loves it. She is worried about the traffic along The Bishops Avenue and would like to see a pedestrian crossing put in place.

Please do call our Editorial voicemail box (08700 292405) with news, opinion or to suggest how we could improve THE ARCHER. If you prefer, you can always write to us in the conventional way.