



Pursuing the Parakeets

By Daphne Chamberlain

Never mind about those zebras at Pigeon Corner! AR Beza's article last month was of course an April Fool's joke, but my piece in March about the thousands of escaped parakeets was absolutely genuine.

Some of you may have read the article in The Times which came out shortly afterwards. Apparently there are now five species of exotic parrot breeding in the wild in south-east England, and some of them even as far away as Merseyside and Cornwall. There have been sightings as close to us as Borehamwood.

They certainly seem to be

here to stay. According to The Times, they are following in the tradition established by pheasants, red-legged partridges and little owls, who all started life in Britain as introductions or escapees.

Meanwhile, that other newspaper and THE ARCHER are both making comparisons with much less exotic birds. When was the last time you saw a sparrow?



Giovanni Fetta and Margie Walsh of GLH. Photo by John Dearing

GLH Awards Dinner

By John Dearing

The annual GLH (Greater London Hire) staff awards dinner was held on 17 April at Highgate Golf Club. After an excellent meal, John Scott, MD of GLH, introduced Steve Whitworth, a former England footballer who used to work for a subsidiary of GLH, and Joanna Bickerstaffe, who was one of the first winners of a GLH award, and invited them to present the 2002 GLH Staff awards. The highlights were as follows:

Bike Rider of the Year - Andy Cowardine
Van Driver of the Year - Lemus Buchas
Runner Up - Giovanni Fetta
Day Driver of the Year - George Koureas
Night Driver of the Year - Martin Loftus
Senior Manager of the Year - The Whitworth Trophy - Awarded jointly to Cara Hurley & Dominic Anthony
Company Vans Department - Tim Cooney
Passenger Division - Fred Slaven
Dispatch Division - Stuart Selley
Best new employee - Tracey Reid
Overall GLH Staff Award - Margie Walsh

Founding Father

John Scott then spoke about the history of GLH, and in particular, Cyril Wilds, who was responsible for obtaining the excellently located site in East Finchley, effectively founding the North London car hire industry. He died earlier this year aged 92.

John told us about the expansion of the company into van and bike hire, and the creation of the central London office. He welcomed the many guests and representatives of the press, with kind words to THE ARCHER, and thanked all the staff of GLH for their efforts during the previous year. He also thanked Steve Wright of the LPHCA, who had done "tremendous work for the industry and had been at the forefront of establishing the car hire business in London".

Annette O'Gorman responded on behalf of the guests, thanking Mr. Scott for his hospitality and challenging him to a game of golf. THE ARCHER would also like to thank him and Rob Rosling for a most enjoyable evening.

YOUNG ARCHER

The Story of Persephone

By Diana Cormack

For hundreds of years May festivals were held to give thanks for the return of the summer, when fruit and crops would grow and ripen and people would know that they had enough food to survive. In ancient times, when people did not understand how the annual changes in nature happened, they made up a story involving the gods they worshipped to explain it all.

Ceres, the Mother of the Earth, had a lovely daughter whom she adored called Persephone. At that time there were no seasons - as crops ripened, new shoots appeared and as trees bore fruit, they also blossomed and produced fresh leaves. People had plenty of food and thanked Ceres for blessing the earth and caring for them.

Then Pluto, the God of the Underworld, saw Persephone playing with her friends, and thought that the beautiful young girl would bring happiness and light to the gloomy place where he lived and he decided to kidnap her.

One day when the children were out in the sunshine collecting flowers, Pluto magically produced the most beautiful flower Persephone had ever seen. She ran to pick it but as soon as she touched it, the earth opened and Pluto came up from the underworld in his chariot. He grabbed Persephone, then carried her to his dark home deep down in the earth.

Her friends looked for Persephone then ran to tell Ceres that her daughter was missing. Ceres was devastated. For many months she forgot about everything except looking for her child. The people of the earth were afraid they would starve and begged the King of the Gods for help.

Jupiter sent for Ceres, who told him that she had just discovered where her daughter was. She demanded that Pluto should be ordered to give Persephone back.

Jupiter commanded that if Persephone had not eaten in the Underworld, she should be set free. Unfortunately, on that very day, Persephone had given in to Pluto's tempting her with food and had eaten six pomegranate seeds. So Jupiter decided that she could only return to the earth for six months of the year.

Those are the months when Ceres is happy and remembers to bless the earth. Flowers and crops grow in the spring and summer, until people harvest their food. But then Persephone has to return to the Underworld and so Ceres is sad and neglects the earth. Trees shed their leaves, flowers die and winter arrives to complete the yearly cycle, which we now know as the four seasons.

A 13th Century May Song

Up, up, let us greet The season so sweet,
For winter is gone, And the flowers are springing,
And little birds singing, Their soft notes ringing,
And bright is the sun!
Where all were dressed
In a snowy vest,
There grass is growing
With dew-drops glowing,
And flowers are seen
On beds so green.

By Godfrey of Nifen

More Hearty Eating - where to go

By Daphne Chamberlain
East Finchley's Mandarin restaurant won one of seven Heartbeat Awards given by Barnet Council to non-institutional restaurants in the borough.

Since we wrote about The Mandarin, at 152 High Road, several people have asked for details of the other restaurants. Here they are:-

Bar San Marco, 26 Ballards Lane, Church End, N3

Café Toulous, The Pavilion, Northway, Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11

Misto Restaurant, 369-372 Ballards Lane, North Finchley, N12

Sweet Vienna Patisserie, 19 Temple Fortune Parade, NW11

Two Brothers Fish Restaurant, Regents Park Road, Church End, N3

John Lewis's **The Place to Eat**, Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

The place to eat seems to be at this end of the borough!

My Moat Mount Memories

By Stefanie Dore aged 10

Year 5 of Holy Trinity School went on a school journey to Moat Mount, Mill Hill. While one half of the class were away for two days and a half the others were at school, then on Wednesday all the class of nine and ten year olds met up at Moat Mount for a picnic with their classmates and family.

Both of the groups enjoyed a packed two days including climbing, canoeing, bowling, orienteering and teambuilding. In bowling one team was last but won in the end because the machine gave them extra points.

Thank you to all the teachers who worked so hard. Everyone loved it, it was great! Thank yooooou!

Can you help us with distribution?

THE ARCHER requires volunteer distributors for the following rounds. Delivery takes place once a month and a typical round takes 30-45 minutes. If you think you may be able to help us or would like to find out more, please call us on 020 8883 0433.

- ♦ The Grange (Bouchier, Crathorne, Cleveland, Sayers & Mowbray Houses)
- ♦ Great North Road (east side only), Sussex Gardens & Sussex Gate
- ♦ Woodside Avenue, Fordington Road & Lanchester Road
- ♦ Vivian Way, Totnes Walk & Devon Rise
- ♦ The Bishops Avenue (part of) & Bancroft Avenue.