



At the Fuel Lands allotments. Photo by John Dearing

East Finchley's Secret Gardens

Part One

By Hugh Petrie

Behind Martin School and Chandos Gardens are two different allotments. East Finchley Allotments (12 acres) was first rented from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners on Lady Day 1916 by the East Finchley Allotment Association, until 1930 when the local council bought it.

The Fuel Land (15 acres) was granted to the poor of Finchley in 1811 with the enclosure of Finchley Common, and rented at best for a dole of winter fuel. An allotment act (1832) allowed Fuel Lands to be converted to allotments; but the rector, the churchwardens, and the overseer, who controlled the rent and dole, resisted an application made in September 1846. Landowners were often worried that their labourers would become independent and "saucy", and expend their energies on their allotments. In 1847 Thomas Reader White became the new rector, and with him ten acres of the fuel lands became allotments.

But by 1857 the land reverted back to meadow and

was rented at best on short five-year leases. The land was not suitable for gardens, argued the churchwardens and overseers, and possibly it wasn't. In 1873 the land was rented at £56pa, however with the rector suffering an enfeebling insanity, a verbal agreement was reached whereby one of the churchwardens, Mr Fields, was able to rent the land at £37pa, the rent it had in 1857, a "regrettable" situation that did not go unnoticed by others in the Parish.

Allotment league

The 1882 allotment act made the conversion of Fuel Lands into allotments compulsory where there was a demand. Mr Field was still the tenant (at £46pa), and the wardens and overseer ignored

the law. But around 1883 William Wightman, a stonemason, and founder of the Finchley Allotment League moved to East Finchley, and he wasn't a man to be ignored.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Fat Chance

So here we go again, Tony 'don't care' Blair has decided that what this country needs is the Olympics and that the best place to hold them is in some run down chunk of East London. Brilliant or what? Well, I reckon it's 'or what'. Why? Because if you look at the choices would you want to come to London in an averagely wet July when you could be in New York or Madrid or Paris?

Last time we had a go at getting the Olympics it was a wet weekend in Manchester and before that Birmingham tried and failed to persuade the world's sporting big-wigs there was more to the place than traffic jams on the M6. We all know what happened to that bright idea; once the laughing had stopped the International Olympic Kickbacks Committee decided that a wet weekend in the Midlands was about as exciting as having sex with a dead cat.

So, what have we got to offer tourists, sportsmen, freeloaders and all the other hangers-on without whom no sporting event can be complete? There's the millennium white elephant, Hackney Marshes, a disused landfill site in East London and a transport system that compares with the best in the third world. OK, so there would be tennis at Wimbledon, baseball disfiguring The Oval and beach volleyball in Regents Park with the losers getting the chance to get up close and personal with the lions. All the horsey stuff would be at the Royal Veterinary College, which means that the horses would be all right. It's the riders I'd worry about, although with humane killers around they might not suffer too much. They're not using the Thames or Wembley and why is the sailing planned for Weymouth? It's not even in London.

Some joker reckoned that London has a one-in-three chance of winning. Sorry folks, that translates as 'good chance of coming third behind Paris and New York and only beating Madrid because Barcelona had it a couple of years ago'.

It could be worse, not much worse, but it could still be worse. There's always the chance that London could win, and then the entire transport system would collapse under the weight of fat Americans, Japanese camcorders and drunken Australians doing kangaroo impressions down Regent Street at 4am.

Scraping the Barrel

By Mal Jacobs

Have you ever wondered how the UK pension compares with other countries in Europe? In the table right, up to 2002/3 the figures are all shown in English pounds for easy comparison and the last column shows values applied to UK average weekly earnings of £411.

In future, if we are using euros, it will be easier and let's hope that the EU will eventually impose a uniform pension for senior citizens of all countries in the union. As we are at the very bottom of the barrel, we can't do any worse!

Country	Percentage of Average Earnings	Applied to av UK earnings
Luxembourg	83% of career average earnings	£341.13
Italy	83% of last 5 years earnings	£341.13
Portugal	80% of last 5 years earnings	£328.80
Greece	80% of last 2 years average earnings	£328.80
Germany	65% of average earnings	£267.15
Belgium	60% of average earnings	£246.60
France	50% of last 10 years earnings	£205.50
Spain	50% of last 8 years earnings	£205.50
Denmark	40% of average earnings	£164.40
Holland	Flat rate equal to minimum wage	£180.00
Ireland	Flat rate (actual amount)	£106.00
UK	Flat rate equal to 17.63% av. earnings (act. amount)	£72.50

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

A coffee afternoon organised by the Holy Trinity School Association raised £135.00. In May children (and parents) took part in the National Walk to School Week.

A team of boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Tag Rugby Festival organised by Finchley Rugby Club. They acquitted themselves very well, reflecting their training by Robin Jacobs. Many of the juniors are now practising for the Barnet Primary Schools Athletics Meeting to be held at Cophthall Stadium, which is organised by their head teacher Duncan Mills.

Martin Schools

For the second year running Martin Infant School received from the Department for Education an achievement award for the improvement in its SATs results compared with similar schools, echoing a DfEE inspector's recent comments on the continuing improvement in mathematics.

Reception class children visited the Natural History Museum, which inspired them to make models of dinosaurs. Year 1 went for a trip on the Regents Canal on the Jenny Wren. They also visited the animals in Paradise Park. Year 2 went to Woodside Farm in Dunstable.

The Globe Theatre Players gave a performance of *Rumplestiltskin* to the infants and held workshops for them.

After many months Martin School Field is now back in action having been dug up and re-seeded. The children can now use it at every opportunity, weather permitting, with playtimes and lessons taking place on the grass.

Martin Schools have a new PTA Committee. The Martin Schools' PTA Annual Summer Fun Day will take place on the schools' premises, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley (close to East Finchley library) from 12.00-3.00 pm on Saturday 14 June. The PTA looks forward to seeing you there.

YOUNG ARCHER

The birds have flown

Last month's ARCHER had a lovely photo of a baby pigeon. It was one of a pair that had hatched and grown in a flowerpot on the fourth floor balcony of childminder Lizzie Joyce. Three little girls she looks after wrote about this.

Here is what seven-year-old Georgia Glick of Year 2 in Holy Trinity had to say: "I went to visit Lizzie. On her balcony she had some eggs. They were very big. They were in a flowerpot. After a few weeks they hatched and out came two birds."

Lizzie helped five-year-olds Jada and Charlotte, from the reception class in Holy Trinity School, to write this about them:

"When we visited Lizzie she found on her balcony two eggs in a flowerpot. The eggs hatched. Out came two squabs, which are baby pigeons. They were yellow and a little black. They looked like little ducklings. They have now grown up but remain in the flowerpot, and everyone thought only flowers grew in flowerpots!"

(The birds have flown away now, but maybe they will come back to visit).

Clever Clogs Corner

A young pigeon is called a squab. Do you know what these other young creatures are called?

1. swan
2. hen
3. duck
4. eagle
5. goose
6. owl
7. fox
8. elephant
9. frog
10. moth

Answers:

1. cygnet
2. chicken
3. duckling
4. eaglet
5. gosling
6. owlet
7. cub
8. calf
9. tadpole
10. caterpillar