



Treacle's party

By John Dearing

Norma Davis and her guide dog Treacle are familiar figures in East Finchley. They have been a wonderful partnership, but with the passing of time this has had to come to an end.

Norma recently announced that at the grand old age of 9 years, Treacle would be retiring. On 24 June, Fairacres in East End Road was the venue for a gathering of friends to wish her a happy retirement.

Norma said, "My guide-dog Treacle is now officially retired, at the age of 9 years. This lovely dog has given me a most wonderful service over the past 7½ years. Not only has she been a faithful friend, but has given me the most invaluable help with getting around. This is a very



Norma Davis and Treacle. Picture by John Dearing

sad and emotional time for me. I shall miss her dearly, but she will be adopted by a kind family and hopefully enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

We got lucky!

Letter from Australia Brian Timms

Forgetting the name of a canary might seem insignificant but it was agony for eight pensioner ex-pupils of Martin, Alder and Manorside Schools at a reunion in Australia last October.

The canary chirpily perched in the window of Bert Belcher's shoe repair shop in Manor Park Road in the 1940s. Now, after an appeal in *THE ARCHER*, we can sleep at night, and at our ages, even during the day. All was revealed via Ann and David Shambrook, ex-Huntingdon Road.

Chain of pursuit

Their chain of pursuit bounced from Cheryl Davis (Bedford Road), to Maisie Williams (Manor Park Road), and then to lunch with Kath Cresswell, Bert's 79-year-old sister, now in Dorset.

Then came the big news by phone from Bert's daughter in Lincolnshire. "The name was Lucky," she said.

Major relief for those at the Down Under gathering – Pat Chick, Mary Hall, Joyce Stevens, Donald and Carol Carnie, Shirley Crane, Derek Woolley and Brian Timms.

...Well?

Now, can anyone name the Baronsmere Road shop, opposite Andrew's the Chemist, which sold records, sheet music and fishing tackle, or is that pushing our luck?

RSPCA news

Hoping that summer has arrived at last, the local RSPCA provides these guidelines to follow to give pets and wild animals comfort during a spell of hot weather.

1. Never leave an animal shut in a car, even with ventilation, for any length of time. The temperature quickly rises and there can be fatal results.
2. Exercise your dogs early morning and again in the cool of evening. If they are left outside, make sure shade and water are available.
3. If going away, check sheds, greenhouses, etc. before shutting up to ensure animals have not come in for shelter and would not be able to get out.
4. Provide bowls of water in the garden for birds, hedgehogs, squirrels and even foxes, as usual sources will have dried up.
5. Do not take dogs to open-air events such as fairs or fun days. They don't enjoy them, and neither do non-dog owners.

Vandals

The clinic is being plagued by vandals who climb onto the roof and throw stones up to it. Like other charities the local RSPCA works hard to make ends meet and cannot afford constant repairs. Those who live in nearby Park Road, Prospect Ring, Kitchener Road and Chapel Court are urged to keep an eye open and report any sightings of these hooligans immediately to police or street wardens.

Beatniks by Toby Litt

A book review by Hannah Eiseman-Renyard

In Bedford 1995, a group of three 'Beatniks' have declared that the year is 1966. Anything 'unhip' (post 1966) must be avoided – including Hendrix songs on the radio, modern reprints of their beloved Jack Kerouac books, and – at one point – the M1.

Mary, the narrator, has just finished university and hasn't decided what she wants to do next when she meets the three 'Beatnik' poseurs in a darkened room at a house party. With a huge crush on their insufferable-yet-charismatic leader, Jack, she falls in with the group despite her better judgement. It's because of this better judgement that the book works so well; the audience gets sucked in along with her. While you can laugh at their strict pretensions of what is and is not 'hip,' their attempted literary revolution in their local library, and their mythic pilgrimage to Brighton, the strange allure of this chic clique still draws you in.

Dig this

What follows is a slick, smart, rites of passage novel that examines the exclusive nature

of subcultures with a sensitivity you would not expect. Though the lingering descriptions of the messy love triangle which develops could have been condensed without losing much, the constant power games between the characters are magnificently observed. While the characters are over the top and sometimes very funny, they are written well enough not ever to become mere cartoons; and the plotting is expertly done.

Though technically an adult book, this is late-teens crossover fiction at its best. Toby Litt's writing style is similar to Nick Hornby's in its intelligence and accessibility. I'm willing to put money on people developing a taste for jive, jazz, and wearing black roll necks once they've read it. Dig and enjoy, hip cats.

OBITUARY

John Clement Bolton

14.10.1914 - 08.06.2004

The Archer is sad to record the death of John Bolton, former owner of CW Andrew Pharmacy.

Born on 14 October 1914 at Stump Cross near Halifax, at the age of twelve he moved to Hawick in Scotland with his family. After gaining his Higher Leaving Certificate, John was apprenticed to a local pharmacy. Subsequently he studied as a chemist and druggist at Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities. He qualified in 1935 and then made his way south.

On his 25th birthday he married Frances Hayes, whom he had met while working in Edgware, and they moved in above the shop at 32 High Road. Business hours were 9am-1pm and 2pm-7pm, but that was not the end of the working day for John. After supper he would go down to the dispensary, where he would stay until midnight preparing medicines and making tablets. Throughout World War II he was part of the reserved occupations and at times had to take cover in the air-raid shelter in the garden.

Despite running a successful business, John still found time to

be involved in the Finchley and Barnet Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, holding the post of Secretary for over 20 years and being its chairman in 1975. He retired in 1977.

From 1980-81 he was president of the Rotary Club and, at the same time, his wife was president of the Inner Wheel. He was also an active member of the United Reform Church in Muswell Hill, for which he did the accounts.

John was a great supporter of the Finchley Society and his collection of rare pharmaceutical bottles and containers have gone into their care, hopefully to be exhibited at Avenue House. Latterly his large collection of photos was presented to the Borough Archives. He was predeceased by his wife Frances, their daughter Miriam when she was only in her twenties and an infant son.

John's son Martin was moved by the many warm and affectionate tributes paid to his father. He was a genuinely lovely and very much loved man.

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