



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.

The glow of '73

By Edgar Crook (Address supplied)

See how the sun shines on suburban East Finchley
At least in the glow of '73
The county roads then were full of children
Even Horace was young when we called him Stanley
Now, everywhere houses are broken up,
into rooms
For singles or couples, without any issue
See how the quiet pervades into gloom
East Finchley has grown up
The city encroached it
All gone are the children
A village no more

Do you agree with Edgar? One way or the other THE ARCHER would be interested to know!

Walking to work on a winter's morning

By Dennis Evans

And the Brent is iced over,
bent in its purpose of not moving.

The birds have stopped singing,
grass and leaves are frost-encrusted.

Pink-faced girls walk by, smiling,
and hunched office workers
with hands deep in pockets
and steamy breath, hurry from the bus stop.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Teenage dreams

Teenage dreams... sitting in my bedroom in polite suburbia on Sunday afternoons struggling with my homework, bored, disaffected, lonely and isolated; feeling completely out of touch with everyone and everything around me. Nowadays they give you Prozac, but they didn't have Prozac in 1969. I used to listen to the charts, hating the pap that passed for pop until, one particularly bleak Sunday when maths seemed more incomprehensible than usual, I switched on early and John Peel saved my life because what I heard that afternoon stopped me feeling so alone.

Back then, in the late 60s, John Peel did Top Gear on Sundays between 3 and 5. This was the hippy Peel playing *The Incredible String Band*, *Ivor Cutler* and *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. This was the Peel who wound up the Rolling Stones by playing their new album the week before it was released. And I was hooked because he opened the door to a kind of music that didn't turn up on Top of the Pops, music for outsiders like me. I spent my teen years listening to Peel as he moved to the weekday 10 to 12 slot, hearing early Bowie, reggae, Zappa and prog rock on my transistor radio and knowing that as long as he was on the radio life was bearable.

Something changed for me in the mid-seventies. I'd had enough of pomp and pretension. In early '76 I saw the *Pistols* at the Nashville in Kensington, went out, got guitar and formed a band. I was bored with hippy music and had almost stopped listening to Peel. Tuning into Peel in hope rather than expectation I found he'd made the same journey as me, and that kept me listening. Peel introduced me to the *Undertones*, made me realise I wasn't the only one to rate the *Only Ones* or the *Slits* and kept surprising me.

It didn't matter where I was or what I was doing, there was always John Peel on the radio, always surprising, always playing something new. *Joy Division*, *Mekons*, *Smiths*, *Orbital* and *Pulp*: I heard them all on the Peel show. I always meant to write or e-mail and tell him how much he meant to me, but somehow there was always tomorrow, just as there always would be another Peel show. Now it's too late and all I can do is listen to *Teenage Kicks*, pour myself a glass of red wine and remember...

Teenage dreams, so hard to beat.

Letters to The Editor

Edwardian values

The Editor
Regarding Chris Ostwald and his shopfront—he has shown disrespect not only for planning law but for the reason for this being a conservation area.

Muswell Hill character is not pseudo as he suggests but genuine Edwardian. It is his Gaudiesque which is pseudo and a clumsy version. Unfortunately many of the modern shop fronts show little interest in the original character so let more informed designers judge,
Yours truly, (Ms) E McNab
Noblefield Heights, N2

Send your correspondence to:

"Letters Page",
The Archer, PO Box 3699,
London N2 8JA
or e-mail
the-archer@lineone.net.

Norman Burgess

THE ARCHER was sorry to learn of the recent death of Norman Burgess. We will publish a full appreciation in our next edition.

PO box problem

Over a period of time we have noticed that regular deliveries to our PO box have not occurred. So if you have contacted us and have had no response it is possible that your letter has gone astray in the post. In this event, we would ask you to leave a message on our voicemail service 08717 33 4454 or email us at the-archer@lineone.net.

OBITUARY

Yiorghoulla (Georgina) Rodis

By Ann Bronkhorst

Yiorghoulla (Georgina) Rodis, who died on October 22 after a long illness, had lived in East Finchley for over 40 years.

Here she brought up two children and worked as a dressmaker and a childminder. She was loved and respected in the neighbourhood and in the Greek Cypriot community.

At 23 Georgina left her birthplace Morphou in Cyprus for London and marriage to a fellow Cypriot but was widowed at 49. Turkish troops had occupied her village in 1974 but in 2003 she was able to cross the border for a day, and meet the people who live in her house.

In her Bedford Road home Georgina loved cooking, gardening and sharing the results with family, friends and neighbours. The many cards and letters of sympathy received

Save the Stanley

Dear Editor
Am I the only person in East Finchley who is angry about what has happened to Stanley Road Playing Fields? This purpose-built playing field has been allowed to deteriorate. Why? Because Barnet Council seems to want to build yet more homes on it.

It is, of course, connected with the Wilmot Centre which has also been allowed to deteriorate so that a road can be built through to the proposed development at Stanley Road

East Finchley badly needs resources like these for the young people of this area. Young people are forced to play football in the nearby children's playground which is not meant for this use. There are few activities for young people in this area.

This space would probably pay for itself if it was well managed with forethought and imagination, e.g. Astro turf football space, basketball courts etc. I'm sure various businesses in the area would be interested to support this venture.

It already has floodlights.
Is it a foregone conclusion that this site will be sold off?

I understand that there is a trust which manages it but who are these people?

We have a wonderful resource here for our young people. We mustn't let it go.

Jenny Cohen
Talbot Avenue, N2

Good and bad

Dear Sir,
I was interested in your article about the Herbert Wilmot Centre and should like to make two points.

The first is that the Finchley Children's Music Group has been successfully relocated to Brookland Infant and Junior School – schools already popular with East Finchley parents.

The second is that the Centre has been closed because it would cost £250,000 to make it usable. I am afraid that there are even more pressing calls on the Education budget.

Yours faithfully,
John Marshall
Cabinet Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning

Windsor Castle

The Walks, Church Lane
020 8883 5763

New Menu

Traditional food served
12 until 9pm daily

New Wines

A selection of vibrant
Australian wines
Family owned
& operated winery:
McPhersons

New Management

New Experience

Book now for Christmas:
4 course meal
at £11:95 per head

Midhurst Butchers

Certified organic meat
at reasonable prices
Free-range poultry
Home-made sausages
(including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,
Fortis Green, London N10
Tel. 020 8883 5303

Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths
Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.

email: admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk
28 High Road, London N2 9PJ
Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989
www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk



State Registered Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Miss H.C. MIKELLIDES BSc (Hons)
SRCh MChS DpodM
♦ Nail Surgery & Replacement
♦ Verruca treatment ♦ Sports injuries
♦ Skin complaints ♦ Biomechanics
♦ Local Anaesthetic

COOTES PHARMACY 020 8883 0073
134 High Road East Finchley London N2 9ED
Mobile: 07958 443 623