



How Far Would You Go For £50,000?

By Diana Cormack

When Sippy Azizollah of Fairacres in East End Road saw this question posed in a Michelob Ultra competition she had a ready answer, for her New Year's Resolution was to raise £10,000 in aid of Lupus UK. This obviously impressed the organisers, for it has taken Sippy through to the next round of the competition, when she will be interviewed for an hour about her intentions.

The eventual winner will also become the face of Michelob, though Sippy's friends and family could find it difficult to recognise her as she has decided to take part in the next round as a Goth. "I have to go and sell myself and stand out from the others," she told *THE ARCHER*. "A Goth in a wheelchair will definitely get me noticed!"

Unfortunately, one of the particular problems from which Sippy suffers is lupus and she has resolved to raise this huge amount to thank Lupus UK for the immense help they have given her over the years. She also hopes that it will serve to give someone else a chance.



Styling by202

Sippy is being helped to achieve her new look by staff at 202, the hairdressing salon at 202 High Road, who gave their services for free. Antoinette Alexandrou coloured and Louise Davidson styled her hair under the watchful eye of creative director Nick Davies. Delighted with the results, Sippy has been practising putting on the correct make-up, as you can see in the accompanying photo.

But Sippy's fund raising

has already begun. Various businesses in East Finchley have agreed to display collection boxes for Lupus UK and Sippy has organised a Rainbow Quiz (which finishes on 24 February) with entry forms available at The Five Bells and other outlets. She is also organising a Bring and Buy Sale with a difference at Fairacres, 164 East End Road on Friday 5 March from 12-3 pm. It is called *Three, Two, One*, with tables labelled £1.00, £2.00

or £3.00 bearing goods at those prices.

With more people than ever before being diagnosed with this distressing condition, Sippy hopes that the people of East Finchley will support all the fund raising events she has planned for the rest of the year.

About Lupus...

Lupus is a chronic disease in which, for unknown reasons, the body's immune system attacks its own connective tissue, causing pain and inflammation. It can affect many areas including the skin, joints and kidneys, causing severe thickening, rashes, awful arthritis and sometimes kidney failure. It can also cause anaemia, neurological or psychiatric problems, and inflammation of the lining of the lungs and of the membrane surrounding the heart. Some sufferers' symptoms are made worse by sunlight. As yet there is no known cure.

Library Result

By Daphne Chamberlain

2,224 people returned their library questionnaires, giving a response rate of 26%, which is above average for a postal survey. In addition, 127 street interviews were carried out.

75% of respondents used East Finchley Library, while 4% of non-users were unaware of its existence.

66% voted for retaining and refurbishing the existing library, 29% for a new library on the Park House site, and 5% would be happy to do nothing.

Consultation with random focus groups and with schools produced very similar results to the postal surveys. In all cases, the option to keep and refurbish the existing library was easily the most popular. Age, sex, disability and ethnic background did not significantly influence the results; location was consistently a concern.

What were considered to be the most important aspects of a library? Sharing top place for 90% of respondents were a comprehensive collection of adult books and convenient opening hours, closely followed by a friendly atmosphere for 88% and a good range of reference books for 87%. A public lounge area, including toilets, was important for 76%, with access to all facilities at

75%. Larger, clearer signage and a comprehensive range of children's books scored well with 69% each.

Shelves accessible to everyone were important for 65%, as was convenience for public transport (ahead of convenience for car parking at 53%). Designated areas for young people (59%), study facilities (also 59%), computer facilities and designated areas for adults (both at 58%) and children's groups at 53% made up the middle to lower end of the list.

At the bottom of the list, separate learning areas, music/audio and videos/DVDs all attracted 52%, with use of the internet at 50%, meeting rooms at 43% (though facilities for community activities were important to focus groups), and nearness to shops bringing up the rear at 36%.

Cabinet recommendations were that the results should be noted, the existing library retained, and refurbishment proposals costed - to be considered along with other schemes for inclusion in the future capital programme.



Fathers and children from Chandos Road and Greenfield Drive planting young oak trees in the park. Photo by Diana Cormack

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Great Oaks from Little Acorns...

After days of heavy rain, the sun shone on The Friends of Cherry Tree Wood for their first event of the year. A good crowd from all over East Finchley, including many children, came to help with a tree planting session in line with the five-year plan organised by Country Management Services.

Young English oaks were planted in places where there are gaps in the canopy or where there are areas of bramble which will give them more protection. Some will be fenced in. Park Keeper Chris Ward was there to supervise activities and to provide a welcome cup of coffee at the end of a cold, crisp morning's work.