



Sandy's Family History - Picture Courtesy of Sandy Bressler

## Desperately Seeking Sandy

By Daphne Chamberlain  
Sandy Bressler from Sacramento, California, isn't exactly desperate yet, but she would appreciate a little help with her family history search. If you knew, still know, or have heard of the following Dowlens, Aslins or Dore families, you may be the people she is seeking.

She knows from the 1881 Census that John Dowlen, 'master grocer', kept a shop in Market Place. By 1891 his son, Walter, and Walter's wife and young family were living in Lincoln Road. The children were Charles, Isabel, William and Edward. Charles, by then a banker's clerk, was still at 78 Lincoln Road in 1907, when he married Miriam Harriett Dore from 39 Leslie Road.

Miriam Harriett and her sister, Katherine, worked in a Finchley stationer's shop, which was probably managed or owned by their adoptive mother, Louisa Aslin. The girls were born in Devon, but the family split up when their mother died, and one of their brothers eventually settled in America. Sandy's husband is his grandson.

Why is Sandy's husband's name now Dore Bressler? The answer - Bressler is his stepfather's name - is central to Sandy's story. She says, "In 1984 I was on a quest to learn the reason why my husband's father died so young, since

## Cure for Hunger

By Paula Allison

I'm on a quest to find the local unbeatable eatery - and Dr Hunger on the corner of Ossulton Way and East End Road is a strong contender. They have an extensive menu including traditional English breakfast, vegetarian lasagne, and lamb chops and also do take away rolls and portions of chips, all at very reasonable prices.

The cafe is kept spotlessly clean, and all the staff are very friendly and efficient.

our firstborn developed some medical problems. In the process of tracking down medical documentation, I learned a lot of my data."

### Genealogy bug

Admitting to hating history as a teenager, she adds, "Once I got the genealogy bug, I've just adored reading and learning about everything."

Can anyone tell us any more about the Dowlens and/or their grocery shop in Market Place, the Aslins and/or the stationery shop, or the Dores? If so, please let us know.

## Where have all the Flowers Gone?

Concerned about the number of gardens being concreted over to provide off-street parking space, the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association came up with the idea of holding a front garden competition to preserve the village atmosphere and give pleasure to people passing by. The winner of the competition, launched last year, was Anna Pollock of Southern Road, whose house now bears a blue plaque commemorating her success.



Front gardens taken over for off-street parking Photo by John Dearing

Thanks to funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Community Chest through the Scarsman Trust, the highly successful front garden competition is to be repeated in 2004.

Because it has been thrown open to all residents of Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra Wards and many more entries than last year are anticipated, the funding, for which

the Association is grateful, will be used for more printing and promotion.

Entry forms are available to non-members through libraries and local outlets, including Capital Gardens, who will again be the main sponsors. Both Sainsburys and the Muswell Hill Odeon will rack the entry forms during March for maximum impact.

Final date for entry forms to be submitted is 30 April. Preliminary judging will take place between 15 and 30 May. Final judging of the ten best gardens will be between 5 and 12 June by a member of the Muswell Hill and District Horticultural Society. Each of the ten will receive a year's free membership of the Society.

The prize giving will take place on Sunday, 27 June at the Alexandra Park Garden Centre at 3pm, hosted by Capital Gardens, who are giving the top three prizes.



These gardens on Fortis Green still retain a wealth of greenery. Photo taken during the recent cold snap by Tony Roberts

## Archer Bridge



by Mike Graham

Most team events are scored by a method called International Match Points (imps). You compare scores, and convert the difference according to the IMP scale. A difference of 90 to 120 points, for example, converts to 3 imps; a difference of 430 to 490 (a possible non-vulnerable game swing) converts to 10 imps.

The point of the scale is to minimise the effect of really huge swings, which, under aggregate scoring, could effectively decide the match on just one board. Two vulnerable game swings, worth perhaps 1500 points, might cost 25 imps; but that can be recouped with four small part-score swings.

Very large swings are thus relatively infrequent. However, in the last week, my team played two matches and gained two huge swings - an 18 imp (1750 - 1990) and a 19 imp (2000 - 2240). This was the 18 imp swing hand:

Dealer North	♠	9752			
Game All	♥	932			
	♦	A3			
	♣	8652			
			N		
♠	AQ10			♠	KJ43
♥	KJ108			♥	AQ4
♦	964			♦	J2
♣	AQ9	W	E	♣	KJ73
		♠	S		
		♥	86		
		♦	765		
		♣	KQ10875		
			♣		
			104		

The bidding was:

N	E	S	W
Pass	1NT (1)	Pass	4NT (2)
Pass	5♦ (3)	Db1 (4)	6NT (5)
Pass	Pass	Pass	

- (1) A balanced hand of 15-17 points.
- (2) Blackwood, asking for aces.
- (3) One ace.
- (4) Lead-directing, showing a good holding in diamonds. I did not know, at this point, what West's intentions were; it was possible that he was about to bid a slam in a suit, in which case partner would be on lead.
- (5) About right on point count, but the diamonds are a worry...

The king of diamonds seemed the obvious lead, so I led it, and watched in amazement as partner overtook with the ace and led another one back. Down five, 500 to our side. No big deal if Three No-trump went down at the other table (minus 200 - 7 imps to our side) but the contract was Six No-trump as well, and again the king of diamonds was led. But here North ducked! South, afraid that East held AJ2 of diamonds, switched to a spade, and now there were twelve top tricks. So team-mates came back with plus 1440 to go with out 500, for an aggregate swing of 1940 - 18 imps.

I shall show you the 19 imp swing next time.