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Shot in the dark

By Diana Cormack

Some readers might recognise the name of Craig Johnson from the poems he had published in *THE ARCHER* when he was a teenager. Since those days in the mid-nineties, Craig has gone on to gain a degree and has studied many aspects of print and journalism as well as learning a great deal about the world of media and communications.

Craig still writes poetry, but he has also developed another aspect of his creative ability, which has little to do with writing.

At college Craig became interested in photography and one aspect of his work in that medium has got him noticed both here and in the USA. Taking photographs of lights at night is not unusual, but doing so through the windscreen of a moving car is certainly innovative.

Using a digital camera, he creates pictures with a surreal effect, which stimulate the imagination, rather like trying to identify shapes in the clouds. It is hard to believe that these intriguing swirls of light and flashes of colour spring from such mundane scenes as the

traffic lights at the Bald Faced Stag or the vehicles along East End Road.

"I like picking up on things that aren't there, seeing things on the flip-side," Craig said. "It's all a matter of perception."

Night of Fire

Still a resident of East Finchley, Craig uses a lot of local scenes in his photography, though you may not recognise many of them as such. You can see some of his work at an exhibition entitled 'Night of Fire', which is to be held at the Harris Fine Arts Gallery, 710 North Finchley High Road, N10 from 18-31 July. Entry is free on Monday-Saturday from 9.30am-5.30pm, Sunday from 11am-5.00pm. Tel 8445 2804.

Visit Craig's website at www.pritphoto.net for other news of this young talent.



East Finchley High Road as you've never seen it before. Photo by artist Craig Johnson.

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A mountain to climb

A local woman is packing her backpack for a charity trek through the Himalayas.

Justin Mead will be raising money for Voluntary Service Overseas by camping and walking for a week at high altitude through the mountain range.

She expects to face contrasting conditions, with daytime temperatures in the mid-20s Celsius but night temperatures falling well below freezing.

Justin, of Long Lane, said: "I am approaching retirement age and have never done anything like this before, so I'm quite excited."

The challenge takes place in August and she is aiming to raise £2,500 to support the work of VSO in running health, education and farming projects overseas. She can be contacted on 020 8883 6834.

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