



Could you help the Hornsey Trust?

By Linda Soper

A North London charity shop is looking for volunteer staff to help support its fundraising for a valued children's centre in Muswell Hill.

The Hornsey Trust recently opened a charity shop in Tufnell Park to support the work of its Conductive Education Centre for children with cerebral palsy.

Children who attend are helped with movement, co-ordination, balance and motor control as well as focusing on speech and skills like dressing and feeding. The structured training allows the individual to make choices and move towards independence.

The skilled staff give regular support and guidance once a week for babies and small children. Children who are 18

months to three-years-old work in groups of six with their parents to develop their abilities and apply the skills learnt to their daily lives. Once the children are three they work with the National Curriculum to key stage 1.

The Hornsey Trust's charity shop has been open for a couple of months in Fortress Road, Tufnell Park. The trust is looking for volunteers to help them so if you are interested in this worthwhile work contact them on 020 8444 7242, or email info@hornseytrust.org.uk. For more information, visit www.hornseytrust.org.uk.

Allotments escape sewage leak

By Daphne Chamberlain

Vale Farm allotments and the adjacent footpath over the North Circular escaped their usual Christmas sewage overflow this year - but for how long will their luck last?

When Catalyst Housing Association, potential developer of the neighbouring Lonsdale House site in Tarling Road, recently put a camera down the drains, they found foul sewer pipe junctions overgrown with tree and plant roots and grease debris.

Engineer Tim Trotman told *THE ARCHER*, "It's a common problem with these old sewers". He said that a report was sent to the owner of the pipes. However, when we asked Thames Water, who are responsible for the foul sewer, what action was being taken, they said they could not locate a report at that time.

Why no leaflet drop?

Meanwhile, Vale Farm Allotment Secretary Stella Burnett is wondering what happened to Barnet Council's promised pre-Christmas leaflet drop, warning local people not to overload their drains with

grease. Barnet confirmed to *THE ARCHER* (September edition) that this would be done, but has now told us that they did not do the letterbox drop after all.

Health hazard

Ms Burnett told us, "We were mercifully free of the sewage lake this year, but it is a continuing public health hazard." The 47 elderly residents of Lonsdale House will be moved to other accommodation this April, and local residents want the malfunctioning sewer to be put right before the new development goes up on the site.

Catalyst's Chief Project Manager, Gordon Cooper, suggested that the burden on the drains might be less because many residents in the new development would be out at work. He agreed, nevertheless, that the situation would only get worse if nothing was done.

A walk back in time

By John Lawrence

Walking through East Finchley now means traffic fumes, frighteningly busy road junctions and an ever-growing numbers of hazards clogging our pavements.

A century ago the experience would have been entirely different. Just how different is captured in a ramblers' guide book of 1896 that gives a fascinating insight into the East Finchley of those days.

The book, entitled *Over the Northern Heights: A series of rambles by field-path and hedgerow through North Middlesex, Herts and Bucks.*, was shown to *THE ARCHER* by one of our former distributors, Mike Bassett of Neale Close.

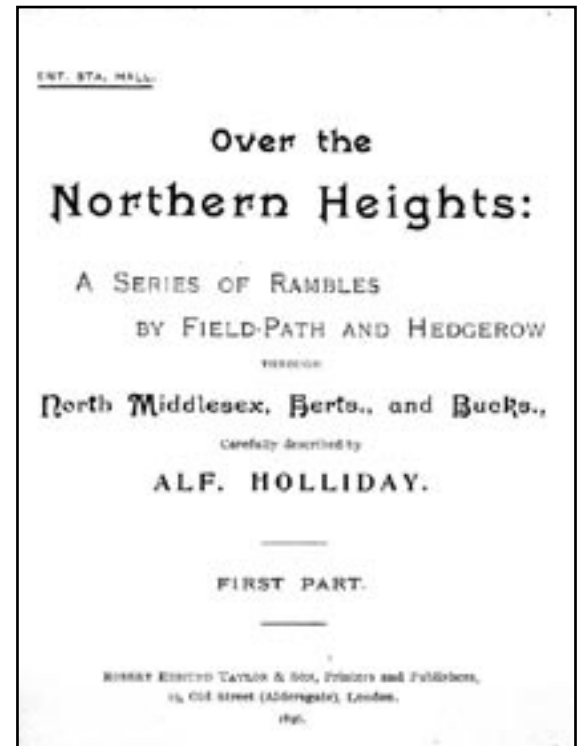
In it the author, Alfred Holliday, carefully describes a four-mile ramble from East Finchley railway station to Hendon railway station, much of it through a landscape of farm roads, fields and country cottages, well away from the main roads where motorised vehicles were just beginning to be a danger.

Below is his description of the first mile through East Finchley with our own notes to show how the landscape has changed 110 years later.

The walk begins

Mr Holliday informs his readers that East Finchley has a station on the High Barnet branch of the Great Northern Railway and is connected by omnibus with the tramway terminus at the Archway Tavern.

He writes: "Upon leaving the booking-office at the station, cross the yard and take a broad footpath right opposite. The path comes out into a street, which cross, proceeding by way of another street on the other side." (This will be the route that currently takes pedestrians through the tube station car park and up Chalice Court to East End Road before crossing over to Market Place).



The title page to Alfred Holliday's 1896 guided walk through East Finchley

"This leads through an old-fashioned district known as Finchley Market, where, in front of the post-office, the main-road narrows very considerably, while a broad road turns off to the right. This latter is to be followed. It soon turns to the left, then sharply to the right, and leads into the North Road, when turn to the left." (This seems to describe the walk up Market Place, past the Royal Mail sorting office and then the twists and turns of Park Road before it joins the High Road).



Even in 1896, the roads were a hazardous place - an illustration from the book

"Keep to the road until after the entrance-gates of the Islington and St Pancras Cemeteries have been passed on the right. Then look out upon the left for Oak Lane, marked by a letter box in the adjacent wall. The name of the street will be found painted upon the white collection-tablet of the box." (Pedestrians looking for Oak Lane now will find no letter box but will find it easy to spot the council's road signs, one up high on a post and one lower down on a brick wall).

Lanes and fields

"The lane gently rises, and at the top will be found upon the right, opposite Lochleven House, a narrow lane, by which the ramble is to be continued." (Oak Lane still rises gently but is now packed with the cars of residents on the Grange estate. Although Lochleven House has gone, the same name has been

given to one of the estate's housing blocks; the narrow lane is now the broad entrance to Tarling Road).

"Standing back from the path are a few neat red-brick almshouses. Two fields are passed through, and a road is entered by a swing-gate." (The almshouses, still well cared-for and now called Cleave House, sit behind green railings in Wilmot Close. Ploughman's Walk is the name of the modern footpath to Long Lane. The once-open fields are now home to the residents of Font Hills, The Mead, Thackrah Close and Brendon Grove).

"In this road, turn to the right and on the left, just before a terrace of cottages is reached facing the road, is a cart-road leading to another row of cottages, eighteen in number, at right-angles to the main road.

Proceed by this cart-road but as soon as the first cottage is reached, leave it by a footpath on the right, passing through a swing-gate and crossing the field by a gravelled path." (All these cottages on Long Lane and Manor Cottages Approach are still there but the footpath has gone, covered by the embankment below the elevated North Circular Road).

Leaving East Finchley

Here we must part company with Mr Holliday as he leaves N2 and describes the rest of the walk to Hendon through fields past the "plain-looking" Finchley Manor House, now the Sternberg Centre on East End Road.

He signs off by writing: "The author will be pleased to receive from ramblers notice of any alteration of paths, way-marks etc in this book." If only he knew.

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