



Harriet and Constance Connides. Photo by Derek Ball.

## Waiting room exhibition

By Sheila Armstrong

Local artist Harriet Connides recently had a successful exhibition in The Waiting Room Cafe above Palmers Green Station, exhibiting a selection of self-portraits in charcoal alongside the work of ceramic artist Ann Hutchins.

This exhibition was all self-portraits but sometimes Harriet does portraits of friends. Her dramatic and free charcoal drawings are full of movement and in some respects seem like portraits of dancers.

She told *THE ARCHER* that her work was very introspective and self-revealing. She likes working at night, adding that even if she never sold another of her pictures she would still keep drawing. She also paints landscapes in watercolour, inspired by Hampstead Heath and the open spaces of north London.

A long time resident of East Finchley, Harriet has had substantial exhibiting experience at Canterbury Cathedral, the V&A Museum and Burgh House amongst others. She participated in the Why Waste It If

You Can Wear It exhibition with her jewellery, made from recycled materials but resembling tiny miniature paintings from different styles and periods.

Originally trained as a painter at Canterbury School of Art, she worked for many years at the V&A. Living in north London, she continued to paint with Angela Dougal, who is based mainly in and around Kenwood.

Thanks to Derek Ball, a friend of Harriet, for alerting *THE ARCHER* to this exhibition and documenting it so well. To see Harriet's work visit her web site [www.harrietconnides.co.uk](http://www.harrietconnides.co.uk). She can be contacted on [harriet.connides@lycos.co.uk](mailto:harriet.connides@lycos.co.uk).

## Dead hedge protects pool life

By Ann Bronkhorst  
Around the dual-level reed pool newly created in Coldfall Wood is a natural-looking fence made from branches. It looks rather like a low stockade and, in a way, that's what it is.

Inside the fenced area the water plants, including irises, should have a better chance of survival. The upper sections of the stream and the raw, open-access pools have taken heavy punishment lately. Water attracts children and dogs. Result: sticks get hurled in, logs are rolled down to create a satisfying splash, and the tender water plants receive "a severe bashing".

That was Catherine Price's description of what she saw before she led in the shock troops. Catherine and her team from Haringey BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), helped by a few Friends of Coldfall Wood, spent much of Tuesday 26 June building the protective 'dead hedge'. They hammered in a circle of stakes, dragged up heavy logs and interwove branches and brushwood, creating a barrier to deter trampling feet and allow the plants time to establish themselves.

Dead hedging is used locally in Highgate Wood, Kenwood and Hampstead Heath. As well as protecting an area temporarily, the barriers provide shelter for small creatures. Being constructed from natural materials found nearby, they blend into the landscape and aren't as obtrusive (or as costly) as a real fence.

For our wood's new dead hedge, and for the waterplants, the testing-time may well be the long summer holiday. If children are chucking logs around it may take a little courage to intervene, but the Friends of Coldfall Wood hope that walkers will do so to protect the pools and the stream.

## Smoke gets in your eyes

By Ann Bronkhorst

Did you collect cigarette cards? Can you complete the slogan "Whatever the pleasure..."? And did sophisticated images of gold ingots or of slashed purple silk instantly tell you the brand names?

As the latest no-smoking legislation takes effect it's good to be reminded about the clever advertising techniques used to hook and hold smokers in the not-so-distant past.

In her aptly titled book *Smoke Signals*, Judy Vaknin, of Baronsmere Road, traces those techniques through 20<sup>th</sup> century advertisements in British and American newspapers and magazines.

Well-designed and lavishly illustrated, *Smoke Signals* covers the whole century, linking the images to social developments and marketing methods. Tobacco brands mentioned in the book include evocative names like Black Cat and Mogul. Judy's commentary is informative and accessible but the pictures she's chosen are the main attraction.

### Alluring and reassuring

And what pictures! Some look clumsy and comical today, while others retain graphic distinction. There are many men and limpid-eyed women, trustworthy doctors in white coats and heroic naval officers; role models all. The best-selling image of all time was the macho Marlboro cowboy, while the Virginia Slims slogan 'You've come a long way, baby,' was targeted at women and boosted the numbers of teenage girl smokers.

Judy Vaknin doesn't smoke and admits she finds "quite shocking" the claims made, until fairly recently, that certain brands were healthy or gave 'throat protection'. Her approach has had to be objective, however. She does acknowledge the elegance, charm and inventiveness of many advertisements, particularly those of

the 1920s. She points out that tobacco advertising, still legal outside Britain and Europe, will make full use of "the expertise in persuasion developed over the last century" to reach markets in the developing world.

The main sources for the book were over 300 boxes of advertisements acquired from a private collector by Middlesex University, where Judy is the archivist. Sorting, repackaging and listing took several years; the material now forms part of a Library of Historic Advertising held at the Cat Hill campus.

*Smoke Signals* is published by Middlesex University Press at £14.99 and can be ordered from Waterstones or local bookshops.

## Specialist status for three schools

Three secondary schools in the area have been granted specialist school status.

Bishop Douglass, in Hamilton Road, will have Science College status. Oak Lodge School, the special educational needs school in Heath View, will become a specialist school for cognition and learning. Henrietta Barnett, in Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb, was granted Music College status with English as a second subject.

Each school receives a £100,000 grant from the Government to fund new facilities and equipment in their specialist area. The specialist status starts at the beginning of the new school year in September.

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