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THE ARCHER



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Carey with her re-vamped book. Photo by Diana Cormack

A write retirement

By Diana Cormack

After they retire, people often say they have never been so busy and wonder how they ever found the time to go to work. This comment could certainly be made by Carey Miller, of Woodside Avenue, who spent more than 30 years in primary school teaching, 11 of those as head of a Beacon school in Kings Cross.

During that time, Carey was twice invited to Highgrove to discuss education with Prince Charles and also to Buckingham Palace in recognition of her services to education. Besides her great involvement in teaching, Carey brought up three children with her husband David and wrote 11 children's books.

Carey's monsters

These books have sparked a new venture for Carey since her retirement. Her *Dictionary of Monsters and Mysterious Beasts*, first published in 1974, has been very successfully revised and revamped. Now she uses it as a basis for the primary school workshops she runs for Years 4, 5 and 6.

They are able to hear at first hand an author's experience in writing for children, and have an interactive discussion on the content of the book, which The Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop describes as: "A welcome re-issue of an accessible and informative guide to many strange and wondrous creatures

found in folklore and literature. It will particularly delight nine to 10-year-old boys."

Carey's visits to schools do not stop there; she is on the governing body of three primary schools and sits on an independent appeals panel for schools in Haringey. She is also a local magistrate. Despite all this, Carey has found the time to write a children's novel entitled *Hagstone*, which she hopes to see published next year.

A call across the pond

Tracy Paris was born and raised in Manor Park Road before moving to America, where she has since brought up her own family. Scanning the internet for anything connected to East Finchley, she came across THE ARCHER and thought she'd get in touch to trace the friends and family she's lost touch with since those happy days.

I lived with my grandmother Eva Simmonds at 49 Manor Park Road from 1958 when I was born until she died in 1970. I have nothing but amazing memories from that time in my childhood and still remember fondly how safe and friendly the area was.

I went to Martins school in the High Road and then to Manorside Girls' School. We walked everywhere in those days and I remember every road and shortcut like it was yesterday. Back then it was perfectly safe and normal to walk across 'the old barn' when I visited my best friend Lesley or to go under the tunnel on Manor Park to get to Church Lane, probably going to the indoor swimming pool where I learned to swim.

My cousins Lee and Gary stayed with us frequently, as my Nan's home was home to lodgers and family, always bustling and smelling of the best cooked meals around. It was home in the true sense of the word.

The living room was not to be used except for special occasions and we all ate our meals together at the kitchen table. If we were really lucky we could run down to Jack's corner shop for sweets. Oh, the good old days.

So much time has passed and so many things are different. I moved to America in 1986 and have since lost contact with family and friends. I'm trying desperately to find people: my cousins John and Sue Simmonds and their children Lee, Lecia, Lucy and Luke, my cousins Lee and Gary Simmonds, and my best friend, Lesley Drayton.



Tracy Paris

Thanks for taking the time to read this. I can't tell you how many times I think about and miss East Finchley. There was NO better place to grow up!

Tracy now lives in Fairfax, California, and works as a clinical research manager for the California Kidney Cancer Foundation. You can get in touch with her via THE ARCHER by emailing the-archer@lineone.net or by writing to THE ARCHER, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

TreeHouse support

John Hajdu, whose presidency of the Northern Heights Probus Club for retired business people ended in July 2007, chose TreeHouse, the national charity for autism education, to benefit from the club's annual charitable donation of £200.

Mr Hajdu paid a visit to TreeHouse, based in Woodside Avenue, Muswell Hill, and presented the cheque to Gill Bierschenk, TreeHouse Headteacher.

Established in 1997 by a group of parents, TreeHouse runs a school for children and young people with autism and campaigns for better autism education nationally.



John Hajdu photo by John Dearing

To all our readers...

Season's Greetings and a very Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers from everyone on THE ARCHER team. Your contributions and support throughout 2007 have been much appreciated by us all.

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