



**Letters to the editor**

**Not out of the woods yet**

Dear Editor,

It is good news that Thames Water has at last taken some action to tackle pollution of the stream that feeds Coldfall Wood (*THE ARCHER*, November 2006). But it is too early to celebrate.

Seven houses out of several hundred are a tiny proportion of those yet to be checked. Pollution is as bad as ever. Today the stream had its very own oil slick, and the wood reeks of petrochemicals because of a discharge of pollutants into the stream.

Urgent and extensive action is required to prevent further incidents of this kind.

**Yours faithfully,  
Sarah Hutton  
Address supplied**

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**KALASHNIKOV KULTUR**

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

**I predict a riot – maybe**

It's that time of year again. The recycling bin is overflowing with the proof of your conspicuous over-consumption and the cat is suffering from turkey poisoning. All across the country, soothsayers and the mentally deranged are staring into crystal balls, examining the entrails of goats and aligning Mars bars with Uranus in a desperate attempt to persuade you that they can see the future. It's a game for all the family and, having stared long and hard into the bottom of a beer glass and aligned Cherry Tree Wood with Waitrose, I realised that I could join in.

You don't need crystal balls to know that the Northern line will be miserable, or that England won't win the Rugby World. You do need a serious reality gap to predict that Elvis will be found hiding in Budgens. My 2007 predictions might have nothing to do with balls or goat entrails, but they might happen and that's the worrying thing about them.

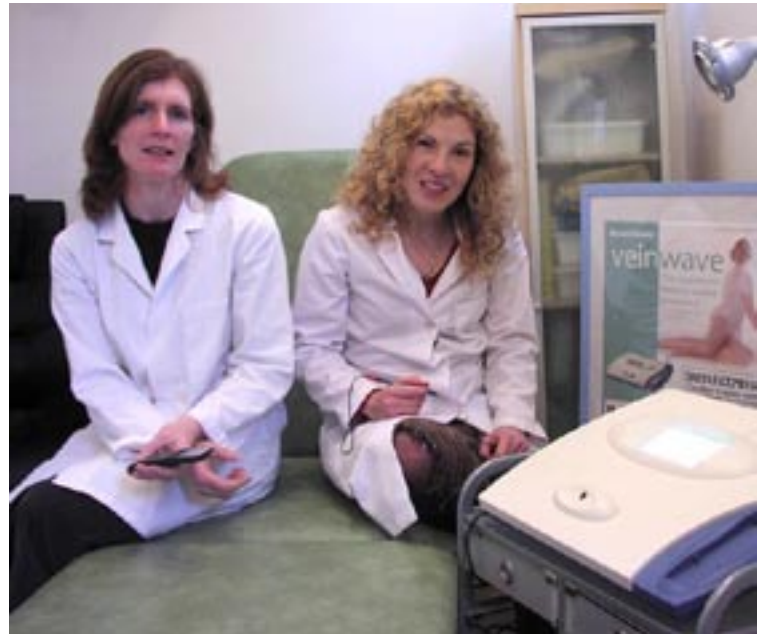
I foresee Scotland undoing 300 years of misrule by declaring independence on 1 May. This will be followed by a mass census where all true Scots will return to their ancestral homes to celebrate and give the English time to rebuild Hadrian's Wall to make sure they can't get back in.

In fields across England that are forever muddy, tents will be erected, camp fires lit and small boys forced to honour the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boy Scouts whether they like it or not.

In a demonstration of building prowess that has not been since Tesco last built a hypermarket, William Blake's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday will be celebrated by the building of Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land. Or, failing that, a reasonably inaccurate model will be built out of left-over beer cans in a field just outside Milton Keynes.

2007 marks the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oliver Cromwell turning down the offer of the throne and republicans will try to persuade his descendants to tell the Queen they've changed their minds and would like to have a go.

None of this might come true, but I can predict one thing with certainty. On 2 June, Classic FM will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Elgar's birth by playing his entire works, in 10-minute chunks, scattered randomly throughout the day.



Judith Costa & Mary Goulbourn. Picture by John Dearing

**Wave goodbye to veins**

By Daphne Chamberlain

**If you have thread or spider veins that are too small for injections but big enough to make you self-conscious, you might be suspicious of advertisements promising to get rid of them. That is until East Finchley's chiropodist/podiatrist, Mary Goulbourn, offered to demonstrate a new removal technique called Veinwave.**

Before my fascinated eyes, veins round Mary's own ankles simply disappeared. Veinwave works by thermo-coagulation, via a fine electrolysis-type needle, covered with an insulating sheath. Only the very tip comes into contact with your veins.

Encouraged by the demonstration, I let Mary loose on a few threads around my nose. I could certainly feel the needle, with some areas more sensitive than others, but the sensation was only like a series of pinpricks.

After-effects were a few blotches, which disappeared very quickly, and some faint marks like phantom veins, which were broken down by the body in a couple of weeks. On my second visit, Mary

greatly reduced even the biggest vein, leaving me very pleased.

Facial veins are usually cleared with a couple of visits. You may need one or two more to get the best results on the legs, but not nearly as many as laser treatment would take.

Mary and her East Finchley Foot Clinic colleague, Judith Costa, are both qualified Veinwave practitioners, and are treating a growing number of clients at their base in Utopia, Leicester Mews. "As a chiropodist, you see how many people have this problem," Mary told me.

For more information, ring Mary or Judith on 020 8444 2123. They are offering free consultations until the end of March.

**January at the Phoenix**

By Phoenix manager Paul Homer

January is traditionally a great month for cinema, and 2007 is no exception. We open the month from 5 January with the last film by the great Robert Altman, *Prarie Home Companion*, based on Garrison Keillor's popular weekly radio show in mid-west America. The film is hosted by GK himself and proves yet again how adept Altman was at bringing together differing storylines to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. The stellar cast includes Woody Harrelson, Meryl Streep, Tommy Lee Jones and Kevin Kline.

Following straight on from 19 January is the latest film from another director who pulls together different story strands in one film, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's *Babel*. Taking place across three continents with an ensemble cast of who's hip in world cinema at the moment, the film examines different cultures and lack of understanding between them.

If you visit the Phoenix in January you will notice that we have (finally) finished installing our new seats. The new seats are in a traditional cinema chair design but with much better padding to create more comfort. They are backed in a lovely cherry-mahogany wood, giving a warm rich feeling. We have also increased the leg room for the seats on the flat part of

the auditorium, giving a better cinema experience all round.

Sunday double bills are as much a part of the Phoenix's reputation as our main features and there's one in particular that I would recommend. *Red Road* and *London to Brighton* play together on the afternoon of Sunday 21 January. Both films have been made by young British filmmakers, and they are both excellent examples of the talent of filmmaking in this country. *Red Road* is a raw dissection of the effect of CCTV in modern Britain and won the Jury Prize at Cannes. *London to Brighton* takes similar themes to another great British film *Mona Lisa*, but is updated for today's world. The directors of the films are young and in tune with modern Britain. I can't wait for their next films.

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**LOOKING FOR HOMES**

**Many cats and kittens needing good homes; some single, some in pairs.**



If you think you can help get in touch with the local cats charity

ANIMAL AID AND ADVICE  
48 HIGH ROAD EAST FINCHLEY  
OR PHONE 7607 1723

**LOOKING FOR A CAT**