



A walk on the Olympic site

By John Lindsay

Sunday 24 June was the last day for walking the site of the 2012 Olympic Games before the bulldozers moved in. Star athletes Daley Thompson and Tessa Sanderson were on hand to inspire the final groups of walkers.

Our group was led by Chris, who should become an East End legend if he is not one already. Chris's two-year-old grandson Jack was also in our group and remained in good spirits throughout a tough two-and-a-half hour trek under Glastonbury weather conditions: obviously a chip off his granddad's block.

Matchgirls and cholera

The area is steeped in social history. The first building of interest was the factory in which the matchgirls won their legendary strike in the late 19th century, a key moment in feminist and socialist history, as Chris reminded us.

Further along we came across the curiously named Greenway - green on top certainly - where a fascinating walk

can be done. The structure is actually a massive sewage pipe. It was built in the 1860s as a result of the work of Dr John Snow who identified the link between cholera and dirty drinking water.

Dr Snow noticed that the prisoners in Pentonville Prison never got cholera, Chris said. Snow linked that to a water supply that was perfectly clean, coming from a deep bore well (a rare case of being better off in prison than out?). Readers with a fondness for classic London pubs will be familiar with the John Snow pub in Soho, a fitting tribute to the doctor who saved the lives of countless Londoners.

Later on we saw the extraordinary pumping station for this

sewage system, a building more reminiscent of the Taj Mahal than an industrial site.

And the future?

The canal and waterway system on our walk is extensive and impressive and will, it is hoped, be opened up to a huge public as a result of the Olympic development. There is already some wildlife, despite the derelict nature of much of the site, and this will be encouraged.

There is vigorous local pressure to ensure that the area will be enhanced after the Olympics and not left as a white elephant. The social pressures were illustrated aptly by the fact that Chris himself has lost his home and been rehoused as part of the development. He nevertheless remains optimistic that East End history will continue on its fascinating path.



The air raid shelter in East End Road. Photo by Craig Johnson

A sheltered childhood

By Craig Johnson

While trying to help the RSPCA catch a poorly fox seen limping around Sedgemere Avenue and Elmhurst Crescent, just off East End Road, we stumbled upon a 1940s public air raid shelter still fitted with 14-inch brick walls, a one-foot thick reinforced concrete roof and bunk beds.

Shelters such as this were built to accommodate about 50 families from nearby estates. In 1935, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin had published a circular entitled 'Air Raid Precautions', obliging councils to protect local people in war. By the summer of 1938, the approach of war meant the building of community shelters got under way in earnest.

The structures were dark, cramped and smelly places and the chemical toilets did not always work. People with their own gardens had the space to install their own underground garden shelters which were little better but did save lives.

Betty's story

Barnet resident Betty Abbott, 76, recalls using an Anderson shelter in her garden when she was only eight years old. Her story is told in the BBC's *People's War* series and is contributed by RSVP Barnet. Betty said: "Inside there was a

wooden floor, a small mat, two bunks across the back and two wooden chairs together with a small paraffin lamp.

"At this time the air raids in Barnet were quite bad and almost every night we slept in our shelter. My mother was quite strict about this, but not so my aunt, who liked her comfort. One night the bombing was bad and my father wanted to go out into our shelter, but my aunt said 'No way'.

"It was just before 9 o'clock when bombs dropped on the houses in the road behind ours, demolishing them. One bomb fell behind our shelter blowing it into a large hole in the garden; fortunately for us, all this took most of the blast. The noise was tremendous and we were all very frightened." Betty's father took her and her sister to stay with a friend in East Finchley, where they went to school. She remembers the war as sometimes exciting but often very frightening.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Live fast, die young...

It's official, rock'n'roll is dangerous and making it to stardom is a sure fire way of increasing your chances of an early death. This has nothing to do with horror stories told to frighten children, this is the result of research. Yes, folks, it's been proved that becoming a rock star increases by 300% your chances of dying within five years of making it big. It's almost enough to encourage kids to become accountants instead.

In the real world rock'n'roll has always been dangerous. It's about sex, it's about drugs, it's about trashing hotels, it's rock'n'roll. And if you're going to take it to the limit, sometimes you're going to go right over the edge and not just hope to die before you get old, but actually do something about it.

Leaving out the cancers and bizarre gardening accidents, rock'n'roll is littered with the fast living who forgot to slow down before they ran out of road, sometimes quite literally. Brian Jones ended up at the bottom of his pool, Janis Joplin, Sid Vicious, Johnny Thunders all overdosed. Kurt Cobain shot himself on purpose, Terry Kath did it by accident and Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. got shot just like John Lennon.

Planes and cars have all contributed to the short and fast lives of rock'n'roll stars, from Buddy Holly wanting to get his washing done to Marc Bolan getting wrapped round a tree. Led Zeppelin might be reforming to play for the rich in November, but back in 1970 they reckoned they'd all be dead by the time they were 30 and Pete Townsend probably meant it when he wrote My Generation.

And now, as professors of health and safety want to put warning stickers on electric guitars, we have Amy Winehouse and Pete Doherty to keep us amused. So what if they are happily taking hedonism to new pharmaceutically enhanced levels? That's fine by me. Taking it to the limit is what rock'n'roll has always been about and believe me, I've been there, I even used to have the tee shirt. Anyway, someone's got to do it so that you don't have to, and health and safety stickers on electric guitars won't change anything.

Christina's anniversary

By Betti Blatman

Christina Hair and Beauty Salon at 36 Aylmer Parade, Aylmer Road, has been a successful hairdressing salon since 1972 and celebrates 35 years in business on Tuesday 16 October with a champagne reception to the sounds of 1972 music.

Having started as a hairdressing and manicure salon, it has expanded to offer a full range of beauty treatments, all of which are being offered to the first 35 clients at a 35% discount which can be used on the day or until Thursday 18 October. For further information, please contact Christina on 020 8340 4002.

Cree Godfrey Wood Solicitors

Commissioners for Oaths

Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm.

email: admin@creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

28 High Road, London N2 9PJ

Tel: 020 8883 9414 / 9496 / 0989

www.creegodfreyandwood.co.uk

Need Computer Help?

Website Designed?

PC Broken,

Broadband, Mac?

Friendly, Experienced & Qualified. For a Free Quote

call Andy on **07963 256 275** or go to www.AndysWeb.net

LOOKING FOR A CAT

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

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

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

LOOKING FOR HOMES



THE WINDSOR CASTLE

THE WALKS, CHURCH LANE, EAST FINCHLEY, LONDON N2 8DL

PHONE 020 8883 5763

* COMFORTABLE, CLEAN PUB

* FRIENDLY STAFF & LANDLORD

* SECLUDED BEER GARDEN

* GOOD VALUE LUNCH & EVENING FOOD

* TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST LUNCHES

* GOOD SELECTION OF MCMULLENS QUALITY CASK ALES AVAILABLE

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 11:30AM-2PM, REOPENING 4:30PM. SATURDAY & SUNDAY OPEN THROUGH THE AFTERNOON

fiori

Stylish flowers

Unusual plants

Beautiful accessories

020 8883 8152

127 High Rd, East Finchley, N2 8AJ