



"Get the message?" Sippy and Chris at Tony's Continental. Photo by Diana Cormack

Zippy of East Finchley

By Diana Cormack

Over the years one particular resident of East Finchley has become a regular contributor to the Clive Bull Show on LBC radio. Despite hearing her views and comments and using her quizzes, songs and jingles for a long time, the show's host still gets her name wrong, calling her Zippy. We know her better as *THE ARCHER*'s own Sippy Azizollah.

In fact, it was LBC that brought Sippy to *THE ARCHER*. Daphne Chamberlain and I had often heard her on Clive's programme and were desperate to find this local phone-in fan. One afternoon as I was delivering the paper on the High Road, a lady in a wheelchair asked if she could have a copy. We got talking and when she told me her name I shrieked, "Not Sippy of East Finchley!"

Since then *THE ARCHER* has featured many of Sippy's exploits. Regular readers will know that, despite bouts of ill health, she has raised thousands of pounds for various charities. Her active brain is always coming up with new ideas and her enthusiasm is catching.

Last month LBC listeners were asked to find novel ways of advertising the station, with prizes on offer for the most innovative. Sippy's first idea was to sit in Brent Cross wearing a suitably

decorated hat. This did not attract great attention, though Sippy was pleased to be visited by other listeners who had heard on the radio that she would be there. Then she approached Tony's Continental at 140 High Road, where Chris used price tags to help carry out her second idea (see photo).

As well as being recognised in East Finchley, Sippy is often greeted in other places by people who are familiar with her voice. A few vocal locals phone LBC programmes from time to time, but they'll have a long way to go if they want to catch up with Sippy's contributions.

The Archer needs a volunteer distributor for Bancroft Avenue

Distribution takes place once a month. A typical round takes 30-45 mins to deliver. For details contact 020 8883 0433 or the-archer@lineone.net

Flying triangle in skies over N2

By Craig Johnson

On the evening of 30 July, I was photographing the night sky when I noticed four strange lights in the sky. One was flaring bright orange and was surrounded by three others; they moved quickly from left to right with no sound. This lasted for 20 minutes.

My video footage shows a triangle formation flying quite low over our suburban area. The official response from the police was that they had no incidents alerted to them from air traffic control that night.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' to establish whether the United Kingdom's air space might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized air activity.

Directorate of Air Staff Julie Monk said: "Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us."

This means the list of UFOs, just released from the MoD archives, has never been properly investigated by defence experts. The MoD states publicly that it remains open-minded about UFOs and extraterrestrial life forms but has no evidence to support the existence of either.

Julie Monk added: "With regard to your particular observation, I can confirm that we received no other reports of UFO sightings for 30 July 2007 from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised aircraft."



THE ARCHER mixes with the stars

When *ARCHER* contributor Janet Maitland took a trip to Los Angeles recently, she left her film scripts at home and took a copy of our newspaper instead. The reaction of the Hollywood moguls is not known for sure but we're expecting the movie offers to come flooding in any minute now. Send your own pictures of *THE ARCHER* on its travels to the-archer@lineone.net or to *THE ARCHER*, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

The floods: a traveller's tale

By Dawn Powell

As the aeroplane came towards us at alarming speed, it was then that I knew I wouldn't be going home that day. The plane, thankfully, landed safely nearby at Oxford Airport but it was the last straw in what had been a disastrous day.

I'd left East Finchley at 9am during the period of floods in July to catch a train from Paddington to my hometown of Malvern. I managed to get as far as the Gloucestershire village of Moreton-in-Marsh when all the passengers were told to get off the train because the line was flooded.

Our collective hearts sank on learning there would be no replacement train in either direction and we would be lucky if a replacement bus managed to reach the station. As I paced the ticket office hoping I wouldn't have to spend the night there, I noticed that a river of water was making its way to the station. Suddenly, I realised sleeping at the station would be the least of my worries: having to swim my way out was a much bigger concern. Thankfully, at this point, the bus turned up.

In the next hour and a half, the somewhat miraculous bus driver managed to negotiate the coach through several lakes of water to get to us to Oxford train station. During this time, we were stuck in several mile-long traffic jams (including one outside Oxford Airport, resulting in that panic-inducing plane incident) and heard that the station we had left behind was now

completely flooded.

Weary and extremely hungry, we eventually made it to Oxford and were told to forget going anywhere other than London. Resigned to my fate, I made my way back to East Finchley. Arriving at my house at 7pm, a mere 10 hours after I'd left it, I decided weekends away were seriously overrated.

Look after your volunteers

Volunteers are the most valuable asset of any small charity and need to feel appreciated.

That was the message from Robert Winton, secretary of The Finchley Society, giving a special talk about what goes on behind the scenes in the society.

He added: "The most important thing to remember about them is that they are volunteers and can leave at any moment."

The Finchley Society's archive group is cataloguing its wealth of historical material with the aim of making it available for general public enquiries.

A project is also under way to set up boards in front of listed buildings in Finchley and Friern Barnet explaining their history.

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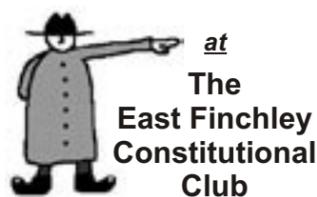
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