



Tom Jones with a portrait by Rod Stewart

## You're in my art

By Daphne Chamberlain

**Rod Stewart, Mick Jagger and Tom Jones all lived in East Finchley in the early 1960s.**

Mick lived over a shop, and Rod worked for Sudbury-Jones picture framers.

And Tom Jones? "He was co-owner of the picture framers. His name and the singer's are identical. It's not unusual!" says Brian Timms, our Australian correspondent.

But did Rod leave a legacy? Tom Jones, an old schoolmate of Brian's, showed me a portrait, signed by R. Stuart (note the Scottish spelling) in 1963.

Sudbury-Jones, the picture-framers, were at 156b High Road, at the top of Huntingdon Mews.

Rod worked there, on and off, for about a year in his early 20s, for around £10 a week. His father kept a tobacconist's shop at the foot of North Hill.

### Memories of Rod

Joyce Galione, of Leslie Road, remembers him play-

ing football with her son, Paul, now another emigrant to Australia. Joyce herself used to work in Boots at Muswell Hill, and recalls in later years his sister bringing in photos of the family with Rod, taken in the US.

Back at the picture-framers, Tom Jones remembers him being ribbed by fellow-workers when he started singing in bars. "He was a cheerful sort of chap, though. He used to dance around, and sometimes got up on the table to sing. He used to do intervals on Long John Baldry's bill. I saw him perform on Eel Pie

Island."

It was an East Finchley syrup pud, though, that was the secret of Rod's success, served up by "Five by Five" Joe, the proprietor of the Manhattan Café (then opposite what is now Diploma Court). "Rod always had a double helping," says Tom Jones. "He loved his food."

But what about the painting? Tom thinks it could be a self-portrait in the style of the time. What do you think?

Tom Jones can now be found at the Picture Factory, 44-48 Birkbeck Road, North Finchley.

## Sign up for art

**Art courses run by Community Focus start their next term on 21 April and booking is now open.**

From Studio Photography to Drama for Radio, Portraiture to Photoshop, CF has a wide range of 12-week courses for beginners and more experienced artists alike. Other courses include Life Drawing, Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Painting, Drumming, Watercolour, IT, Mixed Media Art and, new for CF, Textile Arts and Drawing from the Right Side of the Brain.

If you are interested in finding out more, visit the CF studios at artsdepot, North Finchley, on Monday - Friday from 10am - 5.30pm, or call Caitriona Dunnett on 020 8369 5483 or visit the CF website [www.communityfocus.co.uk](http://www.communityfocus.co.uk).

This Easter a disabled artist will be running a series of creative workshops open to members of the public of all ages and abilities. Participants will see their work installed in the CF entrance gallery on level 2 at artsdepot. Workshops will take place from the week beginning 14 April. To book a space on an Easter workshop call 020 8369 5483.

## Through the streets of London

By John Lawrence

**London is a different city when you ditch public transport and put one foot in front of the other. Walking through town in the company of hundreds of other people makes the experience even more special.**

More than 1,400 fundraisers took part in the annual Big Fun Walk from East Finchley to Westminster on Sunday 9 March and enjoyed plenty of hidden treasures and surprises along the way.

### Parks and panoramas

A snake of walkers stretched through London's loveliest parks, on the way getting a glimpse of Witanhurst House in Highgate, London's largest private residence after Buckingham Palace.

Then it was past the dog walkers of Parliament Hill, through Belsize Park and on to the sweeping panorama of London from atop Primrose Hill.

As we passed their enclosures at London Zoo, two fierce-looking warthogs turned to face us. I'm sure they would have charged us if they could. Next door, a stripey-legged okapi passively munched its lunch and paid us no heed

whatsoever.

Past the halfway point, walkers rested their weary feet at the bandstand in Regent's Park and enjoyed the free sandwiches and drinks handed out by the walk's organisers. A Japanese couple were the only ones boating on the lake in the perishing wind.

Then it was the final push past a busy Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, down to the Mall and the finishing line at Westminster. With a steel band playing us in, we felt like we'd just run the Marathon.

It is hoped that this year's walk will top last year's total of £143,000. All funds support the fantastic work of the multi-faith North London Hospice, based in Whetstone.

Vivienne Bentley, one of the organising team, thanked everyone who had taken part and said the feedback from the day had been overwhelmingly positive.



Tea, biscuits and tired legs as the Big Fun walkers reach the finishing line at Westminster. Photo by John Lawrence

## Billy Bunter reaches centenary

By Vikki Chalmers

**What is the connection between the Fat Owl of the Remove and East Finchley? For those who don't know, and I must admit I didn't, Billy Bunter's creator Frank Richards, real name Charles Hamilton, lived on the fringes of East Finchley during the Second World War.**

Bunter first appeared in *The Magnet* in 1908 and swiftly became a popular favourite with schoolboys and, more surprisingly, schoolgirls. When paper became scarce during World War Two, and there were cutbacks on papers and comics, Bunter became known to new generations of children through a succession of books. Indeed, many boys and girls of school age in the 1940s did not realise that Bunter had had a previous existence of some 30 years as the anti-hero of a popular comic.

Interestingly, the enthusiasm stirred in the breasts of most of these children did not wither and die as teenage years gave way to adulthood, and Bunter fan clubs are still thriving today, 100 years on.

Frank Richards, who was a very private, indeed reclusive,

est of the Bunter books were written, probably, in this area of London.

### William's creator is next in line

Frank Richards' biographer is Mary Cadogan, author of some 17 books, and I am indebted to the Belsize Park Library Supporters' Group for inviting me to attend a talk given by Mary recently. She has written 17 books and has chosen for her next biography the writer Richmal Crompton, creator of another schoolboy anti-hero, Just William.

Bunter pre-dated William by about 10 years and, of course, both went on to be the subject of extremely successful broadcast series. Sadly for William, however, he had no known connection with East Finchley!



man lived in Midholm and Westholm, off Falloden Way, during the war years, having had to leave Margate because of the likely risk of invasion along that part of the coast. The earli-

