



Adventurous design for assault course

By Jake Eiseman-Renyard

Last year, when *THE ARCHER* asked what people would like to change in East Finchley, one suggestion was to put an assault course in Cherry Tree Wood. I thought this was a great idea and have drawn up a plan for how it could look.

Jake's assault course plan:

- 1 High and low hurdles
- 2 Spring pads
- 3 Rope ladder
- 4 Tree platform
- 5 Zip line
- 6 Safety net
- 7 Spider web climber
- 8 Net to crawl under
- 9 Log stepping-stones
- 10 Balancing logs
- 11 Monkey bars
- 12 Rope bridge
- 13 Jump platform
- 14 Tarzan rope
- 15 Sand pit



Having searched the park for a suitable site, I feel a course could be installed in the dip of land by the border of the woods and the playing field. Facilities like this for youths and teens are sorely lacking in Barnet. It would need to be safe to use so I

have included shock absorbers, nets and tyres.

Arson or vandalism might also be a concern but if we can get a park keeper back for Cherry Tree Wood this should be less of a risk. Young people might be less bored and less tempted

to make fires if they have a new assault course to try out.

Do you agree with my design? If you have any comments, or perhaps your own design, please contact me through *THE ARCHER*. Contact details are on page 2.

'Finchley Remembered' once again

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley has always been an interesting place to live, as the reprinting of the fascinating book *Finchley Remembered* shows.

Only a hundred years ago, a woman opened her front door to find herself face-face with a giraffe. She lived in the Brackenbury Road/Sedgemere Avenue area, opposite Park Farm, where elephants, bears, lions and tigers spent the winter. These animals performed in Lord George Sanger's Circus, held every year on land now occupied by Martin Primary School and Chandos Road.

Around the same time, open-topped horse-drawn buses made the journey between the Bald Faced Stag and Archway Tavern, with most of their drivers wearing black bowler hats. Children liked to sit on top, beside the driver, who often chatted to them about places they passed.

70 years ago, before electrification and the extension of the Underground, trains from East Finchley travelled to the City via Highgate, Stroud Green and Finsbury Park. There were huge stacks of coal beside the station, and little boys dared each other to stand to attention on the bridges between East Finchley and Finchley Central, not flinching when they were enveloped in clouds of steam from the trains.

Maps and memories

These are just some of the many memories of Finchley residents, collected by The Finchley Society over the years and first published in book form in 2002. The illustrated recollections cover childhood, schools, entertainment, war, transport, shops, events and famous people, and include maps of East Finchley, Church End and North Finchley in 1938.

In response to continuing demand, the Society has reprinted *Finchley Remembered*. The book, costing £10.95, can be obtained from Derek and Barbara Warren, 83 Wentworth Avenue, N3 1YN. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Finchley Society'. For further information, please contact Derek or Barbara on 020 8346 5258.

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I'm a volunteer tutor

By Betti Blatman

After completing a ten-week course in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) last summer at Barnet College, I am now a volunteer tutor. Since October, I have been assisting a tutor in the pre-entry level class where students are at mixed literacy levels.

It's quite challenging to have students from various countries including Bangladesh, India, Turkey and Yemen, all wanting to learn English despite their different proficiency levels. I have now enjoyed a few months in the classroom assisting the students in their quest to master our language. I really try to convey my enthusiasm and motivation to the students and I've been delighted to be congratulated for my efforts.

Obviously some students require more assistance than others. On one occasion when

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Not so pretty in pink

Just when you've recovered from Christmas here comes another excuse for conspicuous expenditure as everything goes heart-shaped and florists celebrate their biggest day of the year. Yes, it's St Valentine's Day, time to spend the equivalent of the gross national product of a small country on pink roses, pink champagne, pink cakes and 'Marmite with a Hint of Champagne' in a frantic effort to prove how much you care.

I blame Chaucer for introducing the idea of love birds, but that was when courtly love was the big deal, men were men and they wore armour. It was an American called Esther Howland who came up with the idea of sending cards in the 1840s. The first mass produced ones came out in 1847 and things have not been the same since. Maybe that's why Al Capone found a new way of marking February 14th, but snuffing out your business rivals isn't necessarily the most appropriate way of celebrating love.

I'm not sure what St Valentine would have thought of it anyway. He was martyred in 269AD, canonised shortly afterwards and removed from the Catholic Church's general list of saints in 1969 along with St Christopher, which must have been a double blow for car lovers.

In Sweden they didn't even have St Valentine's day until the 1960s. Then the flower industry realised they were missing out and your average Swede hasn't dared look back since.

In the wild and weird world of the 21st century no one can claim to be in love unless they buy flowers or chocolates or jewellery or send a tacky message saying 'Sugar Plum loves Huggy Bunny'. But if you're single you're stuffed as every pub, bar, restaurant, takeaway pizza parlour and shop goes loved up. You can't even buy Marmite because that's gone all pink and frilly now that they've launched their champagne-flavoured Valentine's special. All you can do is stay home, shut the doors and avoid the whole thing. But, if you are in love, you could go back to your Anglo-Saxon roots. February is Kale-monath in Anglo-Saxon, so this year, celebrate the humble kale and say it with cabbages.

Did you know?

- A shark can detect one part of blood in 100 million parts of water.
- A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
- A male emperor moth can smell a female emperor moth up to 7 miles away.
- Some insects can live up to a year without their heads.
- A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue!
- A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate.

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