



## Marching to Finchley

By Robert Sutherland-Smith

December 1745, the year of the Jacobite Rebellion, was a year of deep concern for Londoners and the then few residents of East Finchley. Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Highlanders had crossed the border, having beaten the British army at the battle of Prestonpans, taken Carlisle and triumphantly entered Derby 120 miles away. It was Finchley 'next stop'.

Charles James Stewart, exiled grandson of the deposed Stewart King James II, had come from France raising his standard at Glenfinnan, where most of the clans rallied to his cause to reclaim the British throne from George II. If George spoke with a German accent, Charlie, brought up in France, spoke with a French one.

### Final battle on English soil

Only the British Army redcoats, hastily marched up from London in the winter weather of December 1745 and camped on Finchley Common, stood between the Prince and the Hanoverian seat of government. Old Finchley Common, stretching from East Finchley (then known as the Common's east end, hence East End Road) along the Great North Road to its north end (now called North Finchley), was billed to be the scene of perhaps the last great military engagement on English soil.

There would be Highlander claymore charges, musket shots, gunpowder, fixed bayonets and the skirl of bagpipes along the Great North Road as English redcoats met the tartan-clad Highland hordes. But it was the definitive battle that never was, for by the time they got to Derby the Highlanders had seen enough of England, and started drifting back home.

### Record of mayhem

The great London painter William Hogarth depicted the emergency vividly four years later, well after the crisis had passed, in his famous painting *The Foot Guards Marching to Finchley*. It still hangs in the museum of the Foundling Hospital, in Brunswick Square (nearest tube station Kings Cross).

The painter took his usual jaundiced view of British life. Debauched soldiers are shown drunkenly leaving London and saying farewell to an assortment of wives, girlfriends, tarts and girls entranced with red-coated soldiers. He conveys a desperate chaos in the ranks.

It is not a state propaganda piece, but Hogarth's somewhat mischievous take on life. Dedicated with irony to the King of Prussia, who was famous for maintaining a highly disciplined and efficient fighting force, the picture ended up in the ownership of the Foundling Hospital, of which both Hogarth and Handel were generous patrons. So when you next find yourself standing in those long, dull lines at East Finchley post office or quietly taking coffee at a High Road café, just think of what might have been that December 263 years ago. Think of Bonnie Prince Charlie on East End Road, Highlanders in Coppett's Wood and blood and gore on East Finchley soil.

## YOUNG ARCHER

### In the true spirit

By Helen Drake

The production of *The Night Before Christmas* at artsdepot in December was a simple tale, effectively told. Through reading her mother's childhood copy of the original poem (written in 1822 by Clement Clarke Moore) Emily learns about compassion and valuing what is important: that having lots of friends is the best present of all.

Eddie, the mouse, is made homeless on Christmas Eve. Having spied him in her room, Emily throws Eddie out of the window into the cold, whistling wind. But, says Eddie, mice have "just as much right to have Christmas as everyone else," and sets out on a mission to ask the "big cheese", Santa, what he thinks.

With lots of audience par-

ticipation and songs, Eddie outwits Cecil the cat and gets under the Christmas tree to wait for Santa, meeting some delightful characters along the way: the comical Dymotron, the robot who was never anyone's present ("don't mention Buzz Lightyear") and Lizzie, the fairy on the top of the Christmas tree, who is manically making lists of all the things she has to do

("I've still got to write the jokes for the Christmas crackers").

Before Santa arrives, Emily realises that to enjoy Christmas she needs to make friends with Eddie. Reconciled, Emily reads the final line of the poem with Eddie, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a goodnight!" leaving the audience in no doubt that Christmas should be, indeed, for everyone.

### Give an ARCHER a good home

Please help us to make sure every household in East Finchley gets a chance to read and enjoy a copy of *THE ARCHER* every month. We're looking for volunteer deliverers for Mansfield Heights, Widcombe Way, Twyford Court and parts of The Grange.

Do you live in or near these areas and can you spare around 30 minutes once a month to deliver the newspaper? Copies are dropped directly at your door.

If you can help, please contact our distribution manager Toni Morgan by email on [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net) or by leaving a message on 08717 334465.



### Get stuck in!

Children got creative with glue, paint and sparkles at the Holy Trinity School fair in December. The arts and crafts table was the perfect place to make secret presents for mums and dads.

A sunny day brought crowds of parents and pupils into the school and helped raise thousands to pay for school equipment in the year ahead.

Home made hot food and scrumptious cakes were in big demand and the two tombolas were a massive hit, one of them practically selling out after just an hour.

It was another successful school event and organisers at Holy Trinity thanked everyone who had donated prizes or food, and everyone who put their hand in their pocket and picked up a bargain on the day.

### It pays to advertise

Within a week of the November *ARCHER* being delivered, the North London Hospice Shop had three new helpers.

Manager Eugenia von Piccardio was delighted with the rapid response to our article appealing for volunteers and said that others had offered to help in the New Year.

If you would like to join them in contributing to this worthy cause, you can pop into the shop at 123 High Road or telephone 020 8883 6493.



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### PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

#### Holy Trinity

The Christmas Fair raised just over £2,000 thanks to great support from parents, staff and children.

The Children's Society benefited from the £100 collected at the Christmas carol service.

Children from the choir sang at two residential homes for the elderly and also at Tesco, where they collected money for the North London Hospice.

Year 6 pupils took part in a Science Challenge at St Theresa's school. A car which they constructed won the race and won £100 for their school.

Younger pupils performed their nativity play and the Juniors staged an all-singing, all-dancing

version of *Dick Whittington*.

#### Manorside

Year 4 pupils all greatly enjoyed taking part in a fun sports afternoon in November at Moss Hall school.

A team of inspectors from Barnet visited the school to ensure that it is meeting the high standards needed to maintain its Healthy School Status, and left impressed at how both sport and healthy eating are promoted successfully throughout the school.

The book fair in December was another great success.

Parents enjoyed the premiere of the infants' production of *Happy Feet* with dancing penguins and great songs.