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Diana Cormack receives the Civic Award on behalf of THE ARCHER Team from the Mayor and the Lady Mayoress. Photo courtesy London Borough of Barnet

Civic Award honour for Archer team

THE ARCHER team has won a Barnet Civic Award in recognition of the major contribution they make to community life in the borough. Diana Cormack collected the award on behalf of the whole team from the Mayor, Councillor Brian Coleman, in a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall on 11 March.

The citation stated that the award was given "in recognition of all of the dedicated volunteers who produce and deliver *THE ARCHER* newspaper".

Editor John Lawrence said: "We were very pleased to be nominated and to be one of the winners. This award belongs to every one of the dozens of volunteers who are involved in writing, producing and delivering *THE ARCHER* to nearly 10,000 homes in East Finchley every month."

Recognition for Barnet's best

Seven other civic awards were presented on the night.

They went to: Steve Gleeson, in recognition of 38 years of service with the London Fire Brigade; Hanan Ibrahim, in recognition of her work as founder and Chief Executive of the Somali Family Support Group in Barnet; Mr B J 'Mac' Mackenny, in recognition of his many years of service to the local community as Chairman of the Whetstone Society; Mushtaq Rehman, in recognition of his dedication to helping young people in Barnet; Ronald Charles Shelley, MBE, in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the

Anglo-Jewish community in Barnet; Dr Margaret Clark, in recognition of her outstanding work in supporting cancer sufferers in Barnet and as founder of Barnet Cancer Care, and Jill Summers, in recognition of her many years of service to the local community and in particular to Wessex Gardens School.

The Mayor commented: "All of the nominees have dedicated themselves and their time selflessly to improving the quality of life of other people. It is important that their efforts and achievements are recognised."

All-female cast for Alice's new adventures

By Milena Ciric

East Finchley actress Rebecca Dunn recently starred in a lively new play, *Alice's Adventures in the New World*, as part of an all-female cast.

Rebecca, 28, played three characters, including a male role, in a Victorian-style play written by Sarah Sigal for Fluff Productions. The story followed an Irish heroine who travels the world in search of her American mother. The trip leaves her questioning the options available to women in the 19th century.

Rebecca said that putting on the production at the Old Red Lion Theatre, Islington, in March had been a smooth but tight process, as the group had only three weeks for rehearsals. She said: "This is great individually for us, to be able to play these roles. We're hoping this show is going to be a stepping stone for us. We'd

like either to tour it, or to take it on somewhere bigger, so if the company can get a higher profile, then that's great."

Roles for women

As one of the founders of Fluff Productions, Rebecca said the group started in 2004 when they found a play that they wanted to put on, not thinking it would go very far. She said: "It did really well. People thought it was interesting to see an all-female theatre company and it has grown from there. We don't have any kind of particular style."

As an all-female group, Fluff Productions' aim is to make a difference by tackling the lack of roles for women in theatre.



Women in the New World: a scene from the Fluff Productions drama.

Corpse found in front garden

By Ann Bronkhorst

It wasn't the sort of scene an ARCHER deliverer usually comes across in East Finchley, let alone on the smart 'Ringwood Estate' between Twyford Avenue and Creighton Avenue.

Bare, pale feet protruded from a body bag, which lay beneath a tent on damp sand in a front garden. Edging past towards the letterbox, I thought the feet did look very dead but luckily I'm not of a nervous disposition.


In fact, I'd already noticed a bustling film crew with vans, catering equipment and lighting gear, which had taken over part of the street and several front gardens. I was told that the 'body' would feature in a TV murder drama; the setting would be Whitechapel, not in Jack the Ripper's day but now; and the house I was delivering to would become, by some technical wizardry, a Thames-side house. So look out for a glimpse of Ringwood-on-Thames coming to your TV screen soon.


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