



Suspicious photographer in Cherry Tree Wood

By Janet Maitland

A local resident has asked *THE ARCHER* to issue a warning to parents following an incident in Cherry Tree Wood.

At about 1.30pm on Monday 11 October, Sandra McPhee noticed a man walking up and down taking photographs of children. After watching the man for a few minutes, she asked him why he was taking pictures.

"He didn't answer," said Sandra. "Instead he turned the camera on me and my toddler, which was really frightening. I asked him what he was going to do with the pictures, but he just walked away and carried on taking photos of children."

Sandra told *THE ARCHER* she rang directory enquiries to get the number of the local police station, but there was no reply on the number she was given. She then tried to photograph the man on her mobile phone. When he spotted her doing this, the man walked towards the exit on the High Road.

Description

A few minutes later Sandra left the wood along the same path and saw him coming back in again. She rang the police again when she got home and gave a description, but they were unable to find him.

The man is described as about 50, of medium height, with a

paunch and curly hair. "He was quite scruffy looking. He needed a shave and a haircut," said Sandra, "but his camera looked expensive and professional."

The police advised Sandra to dial 999 if she saw the man again and passed a record of the incident to the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team. "My team continue to patrol the wood looking for this man and for anti social behaviour in general," said Sergeant Andy Matthews. "While I don't want to speculate on the reason for this man taking photographs, we are treating it as suspicious."

Are you a nervous driver?

A TV documentary company wants to hear from drivers who have lost their confidence and now find themselves perhaps scared of driving in the dark or panicky when they get on motorways.

The planned programme by Matchlight will tell the stories of people who have lost their skills and follow their progress as they get them back while carrying out a short driving course. If you are interested in finding out more, phone producer Anne Buckland on 0141 332 0319 or email anne.buckland@matchlight.co.uk.

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Review: Heavenly voices at St Mary's

By Linda Dolata

On Saturday 2 October the Hampstead Singers performed at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. The month of October is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the concert was indeed in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, giving access to really beautiful choral pieces.

Whoever designed St Mary's must have known what they were doing as the acoustics are simply wonderful. Add to this a semi-professional choir of ten of the purest voices, and the result was literally heavenly. No troupe of angels could have improved upon the soaring sound.

The Hampstead Singers were directed by Mark Denza, performing a range of pieces in four-part, sometimes eight-part harmony, with not a note out of place, several including solo parts which tugged at the heart strings.

The first half consisted of eight pieces, all unaccompanied except for the last two, Andrew Carter's *Mary's Magnificat* and *A Maiden Most Gentle*. The second half gave us another eight pieces. The last two, again accompanied by Mark Denza, were John Rutter's gorgeous settings of the *Ave Maria* and *The Magnificat*.

There were several arrangements of the *Ave Maria*, and I was hoping that the one by Gounod, based on Bach, that most of us are familiar with, would be included. Well, the concert came to an end, and then we were treated to one extra piece, the Bach-Gounod *Ave Maria* (adapted by Mark Denza himself). It was so lovely that I felt the tears start, and it would be fair to say that I was not the only one so moved.

I urge *ARCHER* readers to keep an eye out for any similar events at St. Mary's. You will not be disappointed.

Farewell to Pepe

By Diana Cormack

After 12 years of running his café at 89 High Road, Pepe Dostezad has moved on. He sold the business earlier this year and some people will remember that two years ago he also sold Top Pizza, opposite East Finchley library.

Pepe told *THE ARCHER* that he really misses the friendliness of his former customers, many of whom he used to see on a daily basis. They became more like family to him and he saw their children growing up. He also saw many changes along the High Road, where he knew most of the traders. Local schools and churches will remember Pepe for the help he gave by donating to their fund raising activities.



Pepe Dostezad. Photo by Diana Cormack.

"I would like to say thank you for all the support I have been given over the years," said Pepe. "I grew up with the people of East Finchley and I am grateful for what they did for me. I'll always be popping in to visit." Pepe asked for his email address to be printed in case anyone wants to contact him: pcasapepe@yahoo.com



The fireworks wow the crowd at Martin Primary School.

Firework display draws in community

By Rachel Ellis

The annual firework display at Martin Primary School went with a bang. A crowd of more than 1,500 people watched a spectacular 25-minute display of rockets, fountains and Catherine wheels on the school field.

The mild, dry weather on Thursday 4 November was perfect for the event. Glow sticks, cakes, burgers and chips were on sale on the night, and there were extra items too this year, with the new toffee apple and jacket potato stall being a particular success.

The display drew people from all over East Finchley

and the surrounding area, with many former teachers, pupils and parents spotted amongst the crowd as well as families from nearby schools.

The firework display, sponsored by Greater London Hire, Prickett and Ellis, and Budgens, raised around £4,000 for the school.

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