



KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

A whole new decade

As Brown Gordon plummets towards a disused sewage farm on the outskirts of Biggleswade, it's time to welcome a new decade. Some people ask what the next ten years will hold for us all and if we can find a person to sum up the next decade in the way Paris Hilton summed up the last one. Not me, I'm going to take a mean and twisted look back at ten years of life, death and Big Brother.

This was the decade that was iPods, broadband, Google, lies, damned lies and Wikipedia. A time for Big Brother, the rise and demise of Jade Goody, the rise and rise of Ant 'n' Dec, the rise and rise and rise of Simon Cowell and the decline of taste. Jeremy Clarkson, the gerbil and the other one replaced laddism with the charmless world of a minor public school and the Beckhams proved that no taste is no barrier to fame and holding the front page.

This was the decade of endlessly rising house prices followed by the crashing and burning of estate agents and the sudden realisation that a house might actually be a home. The decade of escaping to the country until your home goes under the hammer and you have to flog it if you don't want some nutter with a TV crew on your doorstep asking if you want to swap your wife.

This was the decade of global warming and super-pious people carbon trading their Porsches by getting a Prius as well as a Hummer. The last time to see polar bears before they move to Florida and buy Raybans.

This was the decade when CCTV replaced free speech and when freedom had to be protected by locking it up and hiding the key. The decade when tourists got arrested for taking pictures of Buck House in case they were terrorists rather than tasteless

This was the decade when the foot in the trough replaced the foot in the mouth, your average local politician asked you to pay for his porno duck house's bell tower. The decade when the banks went bust and asked us to give them money so that they could pay themselves bigger bonuses. This was the decade when 'we're all in it together' ended with the poor paying for the crass stupidity of the rich, the decade when brown turned out not to be the new black.

This was the decade that it's time we forgot.

Scenes of Finchley

By Daphne Chamberlain

Local artist Mari l'Anson's *Finchley Sketchbook* was launched officially at Waterstones, North Finchley, last month, where it had already sold nine copies in a few days. This is a book celebrating one of Mari's great loves, and she thanked The Finchley Society for their support in producing it.

The book includes all areas of Finchley, where Mari has lived for 40 years, concentrating on the different character of each area. So the "village" around Church Lane is covered as well as the High Road. "I am passionate about buildings," she told us, "and working on this, my own book, has been what most illustrators only dream about."

Spot your neighbours

She has sketched handsome buildings, quirky buildings, historical and modern buildings, and sometimes ones which were demolished shortly afterwards. There are also a couple of originally commissioned sketches of other people's favourite buildings.

Dotted round most pages are sketches of people strolling, shopping, working or playing. Mari has drawn them from life, so you might just recognise yourself or a friend.

Deputy Mayor Hugh Rainer was conducting his first book launch, and The Finchley Society's David Smith took the opportunity to suggest



Mari l'Anson with (centre) The Finchley Society's David Smith and Deputy Mayor Cllr Hugh Rayner, Photo by Daphne Chamberlain.

that Barnet might produce a weekly newspaper all about the arts. He also said that The Finchley Society should make people more aware of what is

going on in the arts world.

Mari l'Anson's *Finchley Sketchbook*, ISBN 978-0-9543607-1-9, is published by The Finchley Society at £15.

Review: An Education

By Daphne Chamberlain
There is something to be said for missing a film first time round, if you can catch up with it at one of The Phoenix special screenings, with the bonus of a question and answer session with one of the film's makers.

The Q&A for *An Education*, shown last month, featured journalist Lynn Barber, who wrote the memoir on which the film was based. The teenage heroine of this film, set in the early 1960s, was starring in a chunk of Lynn's own life, as adapted for the big screen by Nick Hornby.

Growing up fast

This account of a schoolgirl seduced by a fatally attractive man-about-town, who won over her parents before herself, is very true to its period, and it steers clear of cliché.

The girl marked out for Oxford listens to French songs ("The 60s didn't start until the Beatles,") baffles new friends by rattling off snatches of French, and yearns for a life of adult sophistication.

The acting was superb, even if Carey Mulligan's portrayal of the heroine was often so arrogant that she lost a bit of sympathy. "But I did behave badly at times," said Lynn, referring to her character's own dishonesty.

I was intrigued to see that the much softer-seeming and more hesitant older woman before us actually had a roguish smile identical to the young girl on the screen.

Pretty in pink

By Fay Sanders

Customers visiting East Finchley beauty salon Es Vida found themselves quite literally tickled pink. Festooned with bright pink balloons and pink ribbons, the salon wowed local residents with a charity event in aid of breast cancer research. Visitors could receive a pink manicure, and walk away with the bottle of nail varnish, for £10 a pop. All proceeds went to Cancer Research UK.

The eye-catching window display of enticing raffle prizes was one of the star attractions. Local businesses clubbed together to put their classiest pink products up for grabs. Featured amongst the goodies on offer was a trendy pink purse, normally retailing at £105, from Kokos shoe shop, a beautiful bouquet of pink flowers from Jose-



Staff at Es Vida show off their pink goodies. Photo by Fay Sanders.

phines the florist and a bottle of Crémant de Rosé from Nicolas wine stores in Crouch End.

The fundraising event was the brainchild of salon receptionist Johanna Maddock, 27. She said: "My mother got the all-clear from breast cancer a year ago, so I wanted to do something that would raise awareness."

In keeping with the Hispanic flair of Es Vida, which moved from Muswell Hill to East

Finchley in the summer, tortillas (not pink) were on the menu, as well as cupcakes with pink icing and pink lemonade.

From pink to blue

Inspired by the new pink nail varnish launched by US brand OPI to support breast cancer awareness, Johanna already has her sights set on the salon's next change. OPI has just brought out a blue coloured nail varnish, to raise awareness for lung cancer.

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