



Triathlon trio triumph

Three members of Martyn Gerrard Estate Agents entered the 2010 Mazda Blenheim Palace Triathlon on Monday 7 June to raise money for two local charities, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and the North London Hospice.

Not for the faint-hearted, the Blenheim triathlon consisted of a 750m swim, followed by a 20km bike race and finished off by a 5km run.

Saul Gerrard, Head of the Commercial & Professional, Paul Abbott Williams, Branch Manager at Muswell Hill, and James McGloin, Assistant Manager at East Finchley, trained hard for more than six months for the event.

Saul and Paul are veterans of these events, having taken part in previous London triathlons, but for James it was his first attempt. "It seemed like a good idea when I agreed to do it," he said. "The other two guys have been great at keeping me going."

Training involved regular bike rides, road running and swimming during the evenings and at weekends, although training was the last thing on Paul's mind as his wife Luan gave birth to their son Frankie at the end of April.

Saul said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support we received from everyone." Diane Parry, Noah's Ark Fundraising Development Manager, said: "These events are invaluable to us as we receive no statutory funding."

Obituary: George Dipple

14 January 1930 - 9 April 2010

By Daphne Chamberlain

George Dipple, whose family own Iris, the High Road florist near the corner of Chandos Road, suffered a heart attack in April from which he did not recover. Marli, his widow, paid tribute to the dedicated and respectful care he received at Whittington Hospital.

The Dipples lived for 41 years in Huntingdon Road, moving to Friern Barnet 11 years ago. George started his working life as a metal spinner, but always loved flowers. He bought the business nearly 40 years ago, for the first year in partnership, and his sons Gary and John now own Iris.

The shop originally sold sweets and cigarettes as well as flowers, and visitors to the St Pancras and Islington Cemetery could enjoy tea at tables on the pavement. It is now a fully-fledged gardening business.

George, who was in charge of deliveries, continued to work in the shop until he was taken ill. Customers loved the posies



he made for the cemetery. He was a long-time member of the Constitutional Club, and his other great interests were football, darts and bowls. He played bowls all year round, at Finchley Victoria and then Friary Park in the summer, and Glebeland in the winter. In Marli's words, "He loved his work and he loved his sport."

Open house for art

This year's much-anticipated Summer Open weekends for artists from East Finchley Open take place on 3-4 and 10-11 July.

This is your chance to see some stunning works of photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery and more, and meet the artists who created them. More than 16 homes will be opening around East Finchley and Muswell Hill over the two weekends. For more information, visit www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Bridge Club

Northside Bridge Club this year celebrates its 50th birthday. Founded in 1960, and with one of its original members still playing, it first met in North Finchley Methodist Church. Now, it meets at East Finchley Methodist Church every Thursday evening.

It is one of the very few clubs still playing rubber bridge, and welcomes new members. Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to ring the secretary Helen Hunt on 020 8346 8145.

Yes but no butt bins

Despite TfL telling THE ARCHER that "London Underground will be instructing our contractor Tube Lines to install two new ashtray bins at the entrances of East Finchley tube station by the end of April" the bins have still not appeared.

Having contacted their press office several times and received an apology for the delay in replying, at the time of writing we were still waiting for an explanation.



Could this be a mythical beast... or simply our ARCHER correspondent? Picture by Debby Hiller.

The sound of bells

The Westminster Morris Men made their annual trip to East Finchley in May, visiting The Windsor Castle, The Five Bells and The Old White Lion. Some say that a mythical beast, which lives only on coins of the realm, made a rare appearance.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

When size matters

Measuring things in inches is something all boys know about, same as they know about the offside rule, and if there's one time when both matter it's when there's wall to wall football. Wall to wall football may not come once a year, but it sure as hell has come this year and boys of all ages have got their rulers out. Why? Because we are talking televisions.

When John Baird first transmitted moving pictures sets were large, but screens were small. They were still small when whole villages gathered round one set to watch the Queen getting crowned. And what was worse, they were in black and white and had only one channel. They were still small when ITV was launched and didn't start to get big until the 1960s. They might have got as big as 26 inches by the time we thought it was all over and people ran onto the pitch and Bobby Moore collected 12 inches of solid gold, but they were still in black and white.

Then came colour. Football became luminous and unreal and was beamed in from all over the world and TVs were in wooden cabinets or day-glow plastic and there were three channels but only two showed football. And this was not good enough. What were needed were more channels and more inches. And with boys in charge it had to happen.

Now, as yet another World Cup staggers towards penalties, the boys with the rulers have hit paydirt. Yes, you can cover your entire wall with 50 inches of flat screen, high definition, 3D, full colour football. Boys of all ages from 18 to 80 can stand in the pub screaming at pictures beamed in from the other side of insanity and argue about inches. Yes, size matters and England will still probably lose to Germany on penalties.

Are you a friend?

Friends of Barnet Carers Centre is a developing group which supports the aims of the Centre, and would like to be involved with activities such as volunteering, fundraising and raising awareness.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Centre, please call Fauzia on 020 8343 9698.

Cyclist injured

By Janet Maitland
A cyclist received a hip injury after he was knocked off his bike by a black Toyota.

The accident took place at about 4pm at the junction of Fairlawn Avenue and the High Road on Friday 28 May and was dealt with by a local police officer. The cyclist was taken to Whittington Hospital and is recovering.

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