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The Scorpions ride again

Jim French, an *ARCHER* reader in Canada, sent us this fantastic photo of the Scorpions Motorcycle Club, taken about 1962 at their clubhouse, one of the air raid shelters outside Martin School in Plane Tree Walk.

Jim is on the bike in the middle, with Sue Langham sitting behind him. Jim and Sue got married and went to live in Canada in 1968. They later divorced and both remar-

ried. Jim has two sons and he says his passion is still motorcycles.

Jim remembers a lot of his friends from the Scorpions. He says: "Other names that I can

remember are Peter Rawlings, Barry Crowson, Danny Miall, Bob Scorfield, Peter Ranyor, Don Ranson, Roger Trudelle, Griff Jones, Chris Salarno, Bob Crane, Frank Malone, plus Spider and Slug. "Danny was killed not long after this photo was taken. Roger passed away three years ago. Peter Rawlings married my sister Betty and moved to Canada in 1966. They have two girls. Bob Crane, Frank Malone and Slug all went to Australia."

Were you one of the Scorpions or do you know someone who was? Jim would love to hear from you and so would we. Email Jim on jimfrenchzx@yahoo.ca and write to us at the-archer@lineone.net or The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA.

Relaxing and inspiring gardens

By Susan Bennett

As I approached the front door my spirits sank. Boring begonias in narrow window boxes did not bode well. As an Assistant County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme, inspecting potential gardens is part of my remit. It is gutting to have to tell proud owners that their creation does not pass muster. My guts were churning as I rang the doorbell.

A cheerful welcome. "DO come in". We pass through an immaculate workshop into a leafy conservatory crammed with happy, healthy, beautifully displayed plants. I am won over by the charm, vibrant atmosphere, and evident expertise. An abundance of hanging baskets, but some are empty? They are for the cats. Caroline and David Broome explain that their conservatory, open to the elements, is unlike any other. It is an adventure playground for their family of characterful cats. I am intrigued.

Leaving the 'Catorium', as I christened it, we enter a lush cottage garden, a haven for wild birds, with feeders, a hidden pond, an owl-topped rustic arch and a 'man-shed'. Caroline is a talented plantswoman. David is an accomplished carpenter. Here is a husband and wife team who complement each other's tastes

and skills. I am pleased to say they will be opening their garden to visitors for the NGS for the first time this year.

Their garden at 79 Church Lane, N2 OTH, will be open on Sunday 13 June and Sunday 18 July from 2-6pm. Admission is £2.50 for adults and free for children. There will be home made teas and a plant sale.

Other NGS open garden dates for your diary:

5 St Regis Close, Alexandra Park Road, N10, Sunday 2 May, 2-7pm, Sunday 9 May, 2-6pm, Sunday 27 June, 2-7pm, Sunday 25 July, 2-7pm. Admission £3, children free; 66 Abbots Gardens, N2, Sunday 16 May, 2-6.30pm; East Finchley Cottage Gardens, 399 Long Lane, 20 and 22 Trinity Road, N2, Sunday 6 June, 2-6pm; 2 Stanley Road, N2, Sunday 6 June, 2-6pm. For full details, visit www.ngs.org.uk

Walk the cat

On 15 May, Jenni Alexander and her husband Stuart, of Fortis Green, and two of their friends are walking 40km to raise money for The Scratching Post, a cat rescue charity that covers north London.

The charity relies solely on donations and volunteers. Its policy is to ensure that no cat is ever kept in unsuitable accommodation while it is waiting for a home. Jenni and Stuart are taking on this walk to help them raise money for a new

shelter, as the one they currently use is becoming much too small. When the recession hit many people could no longer afford to keep their pets and they have seen a massive increase in the demand for their services.

Jenni and Stuart will be walking across the South Downs, starting and ending at Goodwood. This will be a long and challenging day. If you would like to sponsor them you can do so by visiting www.charitygiving.co.uk/jennialexander or you can send cheques (payable to The Scratching Post) to 1 Woodside Cottages, Fortis Green, London, N2 9HE.

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Join a day trip to Clacton

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact are off on a day trip to Clacton on Saturday 22 May. Any senior citizen in the area is welcome to join them, whether a registered user of Contact services or not, and you may bring a friend or relative of any age.

There is plenty of storage space under the coach for wheelchairs or zimmers, but unfortunately no wheelchair lift directly into the coach. However, Contact guarantee helpers and there may be possible volunteer wheelchair escorts.

Pick up is between 9.30am and 10am, from Avenue House, Thomas More Way, The Five Bells, and the corner of The High Road and Sylvester Road, and the coach should be back in Finchley by 7pm.

The trip, one of several organised by Contact each year, will cost £12. Organiser Keith John is asking for people to book in advance. If this is physically difficult for anyone, please contact him on

020 8444 1162. Further information on that number or at www.efncontact.org.

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