



Janes & Adams: a family business

In June's issue of *The Archer*, we published a photo that revealed the old Janes & Adams shopfront on the High Road where optician David Hillel now trades. Here, Bob Janes recalls the old family business.

John Janes was my grandfather; he died when I was four and I have no memory of him. His father owned the bakery in Market Place, East Finchley, next to where the Royal Mail building still stands. He started work delivering bread with a pony and trap but before long decided that a baker's life was not for him.

Around the turn of the 20th century he and his friend Alex Adams, both in their late teens, started a bicycle shop run out of the back of the bakery. Before long the business extended into electrical contracting and one of their jobs was to install electricity in Holy Trinity Church.

By 1910 the business was struggling. Alex Adams had enough financial resources to see him through; John Janes wasn't so fortunate and left the business, though his name stayed over the door. He found a job as chauffeur to a General MacLachlan and, through this, moved to Edinburgh where he married and later worked for the Bruce Peebles engineering company.



John Janes and Alex Adams with Douglas Janes, circa 1933.



The Janes and Sons shop in Market Place. Photos courtesy Bob Janes.

Meccano mecca

I suspect that the shop was something of a mecca for my father who grew up around the store and certainly gained his love of engineering there as he built his impressive Meccano collection.

My memories of Janes & Adams are mostly of that Palmers Green branch, not far from the Fox Tavern, with its mixture of electrical goods, bicycles and toys. I also remember, in slightly less warm tones, being taken to the J&A Garage on the corner of Church Lane in East Finchley to get an estimate for repairs after I had a little 'shunt' whilst driving my father's car. I think the garage was an independent business by then, but my father took his car back there for many years.

East Finchley Baptist Church

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For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

Donkeys let off steam at festival

Old-fashioned pleasures took centre stage at the Muswell Hill Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 11 September. Miniature steam train rides, a dog show and the ever-popular donkey derby drew the crowds.

Entertainment came from local bands on the main stage, along with spectacular karate and dance displays. There was also an abundance of jewellery and craft stalls.

This was the 35th year for the festival, which raises money for the London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy, based in Muswell Hill. Our photos capture some of the fun from the day.

Pictured top right:

The glory of steam thanks to the North London Society of Model Engineers.

Right: Never retreat: one runner in the donkey derby stands his ground.

Photos by John Lawrence



Film stars spied in local house

There are posters on every tube platform and interviews with the stars feature in every newspaper. Receiving critical acclaim across the board, the new film *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* is widely tipped for Oscar success.

This latest blockbuster to hit our screens is more homegrown than the usual Hollywood fare. Funded by French backers, directed by a Swede and with a mainly British cast, this adaptation of John le Carré's classic novel also features a small walk-on part by a street next to Cherry Tree Wood.

One cold, frosty morning

in December last year a crew of more than 50 descended on Fordington Road. In keeping with the period, cars from the 1970s were parked in the road and the stars Gary Oldman, Benedict Cumberbatch and Roger Lloyd-Pack filmed scenes in the road and in the back garden of a house, where beehives were set up.

You could tell this was a very professional set-up as they arrived at 7am and by 10am the filming was finished, the props were packed up and the trucks and people had gone.

By the time you're reading this, the film is probably still playing somewhere. Why not go along and see if you can spot a bit of N6 on the big screen?

New slimming class

A new Weight Watchers class has arrived in East Finchley and will be meeting every Thursday at the Clissold Arms, 105 Fortis Green, N2, at 10.30am. The meeting is run by local leader June Poster, who says the organisation's new ProPoints plan is flexible and liveable, leading to a healthy and sustainable weight loss.

Parking is available near the Clissold Arms and it is on the 102 bus route as well as being a short walk from East Finchley tube station. For further information, visit WeightWatchers.co.uk or call 0845 070 4150.



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