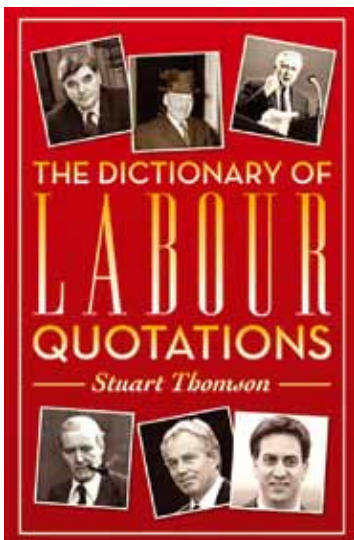




Book Reviews

Dictionary of Labour Quotations

Review by John Lawrence



Not often will you find mouthy football manager Brian Clough and once-the-world's-most-powerful-man Bill Clinton in the same book but Stuart Thomson has brought them together for his latest project.

The author, who lives in Manor Park Road, has published the Biteback Dictionary of Labour Quotations, an entertaining and thought-provoking compendium of memorable lines from the wits, firebrands, revolutionaries and thinkers who have fuelled the British Labour movement since its conception.

Brian Clough freely admitted being a Champagne Socialist, saying: "The difference between me and a good Tory is that he keeps his money while I share mine."

Clinton, meanwhile, is an

example of the world thinkers who have influenced Labour politicians in this country. Among the fascinating quotes are ones from Canadian-born economist JK Galbraith and historical figures like Keir Hardie and George Orwell.

Stuart, a public affairs consultant, wrote the original version of this book 12 years ago and has updated it to include the Tony Blair years and the Labour politicians of today.

For anyone fascinated or troubled by politics, left, right or centre, this book can easily be enjoyed as a history of the Labour movement, with all the interesting bits left in.

The Dictionary of Labour Quotations, by Stuart Thomson, is published by Biteback Publishing, price £12.99.

Friern Barnet - The library that refused to close

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Local author Keith Martin has dedicated this book "to those in the community who created Friern Barnet Library in 1934 and to the team of determined, brave and talented people who refused from 2011 to 2013 to let it be closed".

The book is a tribute and will be a historical record, introducing the team and the details of their campaign to the (at times) nationwide audience who watched with growing interest and involvement as the story unfolded.

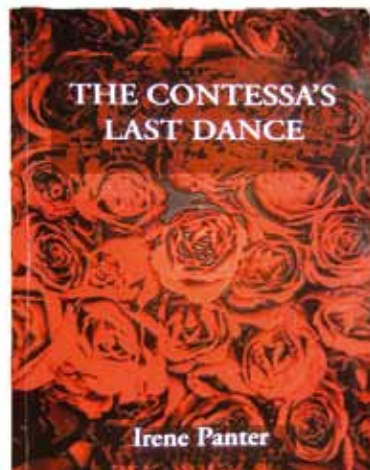
The Occupy movement of squatters, Barnet Council and councillors, the media (including *The Archer*), celebrities, Internet bloggers, lawyers, and the local people who care passionately about their library and are developing it as a lively community centre: these are

all featured here, highlighted by a large collection of colour photos.

Friern Barnet - The Library That Refused To Close is written by Keith Martin and published by Chaville Press, ISBN 978-0-9569344-7-5. It costs £10.99, of which £2 per copy will be donated to Friern Barnet Community Library.

The Contessa's Last Dance

Review by Margi McAlister



The contessa of this story is based on Dame Barbara Cartland, whom local author Irene Panter met some time ago. The story begins with a young woman, Julie, depressed after the breakdown of her marriage and loss of her dog, who starts an art degree course. She goes to live as a paying guest with an elderly lady.

This is the contessa, who is living in a time warp between old England, the Somme and the Spanish Civil War. There are other paying guests; in particular a handsome young American academic in an unhappy marriage. The contessa, flattered by his chivalry, sets about bringing him together with Julie.

Meanwhile, she has an old friend, a princess who lives in Austria in a dilapidated little hunting lodge, grandly called a castle. Before long, the pair are bickering and the princess becomes inordinately jealous and on a visit to England to stay with her long-suffering friend, the contessa, the relationship deteriorates with catastrophic results.

The Contessa's Last Dance, by Irene Panter, is published by Janus Publishing ISBN 978-1-85756-758-8.

Showtime 6

Review by Daphne Chamberlain

Every year, for the last six years, East Finchley Writers have brought out an anthology of their work. To some of us who have read them from the start, they recall memories of childhood Christmases.

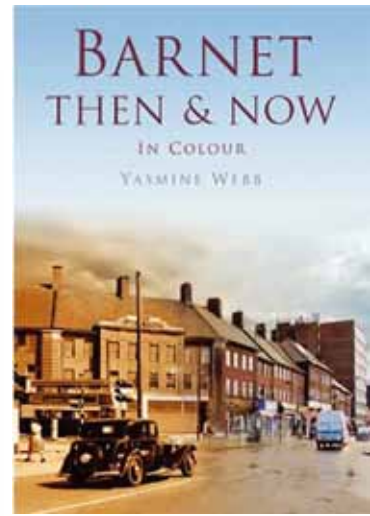
Not that the material is childlike. It's adult and subtle. It's just that it's rather like getting your gift annual, and catching up with familiar characters. Only it is most of the writers who are familiar.

East Finchley Writers are a talented bunch. If you've never read any of their previous offerings or heard them reading aloud at East Finchley Arts Festival, do give them a try now. Science fic-

tion, reminiscences, poems, short stories, travel writing, extracts from novels: take your pick.

If you feel you could write yourself, why not join them in their weekly meetings, 6.30pm on Wednesdays at The Old White Lion. Carola, on 020 8883 5808, will be delighted to tell you more, and will also tell you how to buy Showtime 6. It's a good read.

Barnet Then and Now



We have just heard of an addition to the collection of books about the borough of Barnet. The Finchley Society newsletter describes *Barnet Then and Now* as "enjoyable, colourful and informative". Author Yasmine Webb is the former collections manager of Barnet Local Studies, which means she knows what she's talking about. She also took the photographs herself.

We hope to tell you more in future editions, but meanwhile keep an eye out for it yourselves. Published by The History Press, it can be ordered from local bookshops or obtained through the internet.

Desperately House-Hunting!

After 10 years in East Finchley, my family has expanded with a beautiful baby boy and we need to find a larger house in the area! If you live in a three or four-bed house and are thinking of trying to sell sometime over the next few months then please get in touch with us at: rrmarcus2013@gmail.com

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East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue, N2



Sundays at 10.30am

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am - 11.45am:
Christmas Carol Service
"Sense or sentiment"



6.00pm - 7.15pm:
Carols by Candlelight



Christmas Day (Weds 25th Dec)
10.30am - 11.15am
Christmas Morning Family Service

For more information please contact
the Church Office, Tel: 8883 1544
web site: www.eastfinchleybc.org.uk
Minister: Simon Dyke

Visitors Always Welcome

DO JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH
197 High Road, London N2 8AJ (opp. Creighton Ave.)

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 15 December, 5.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Family Service - 10.00 a.m.

Full details of all our Christmas services are on our website
tel: 020 8346 1700 www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Relax, it's Christmas

Yes, it's that time of year again, time to max out your credit cards, spend something close to the national debt of a medium sized nation and end up over-fed-up and wondering how you are going to get through January. Of course in the weird world of Christmas, December is way too late to start celebrating and anyone who hasn't ordered their reindeer by the end of October is not playing the game.

But the festive season isn't just about overeating, it's really about overspending. Now is the time to join the Argos aliens and buy your nearest and dearest something they don't want. What you buy depends on the size of your bank account and it is a universally acknowledged fact that a person with a large fortune will be in want of taste. So if you're friends with a Russian oligarch make sure you get the receipt because nothing looks quite as crass as sequins on a Ferrari.

After the food and the presents comes the drink and after the drink comes more drink until you've done more to help the brewers of Britain than anyone this side of the Aussies rugby players who got banned for being more drunk than usual. And don't forget the case of dry white wine for anyone who doesn't like beer.

By now you're ready for music and our good friends at Classic FM have a whole new download of carols you've come to loathe. This special release even includes the massed bands of the RAF playing excerpts from Cliff Richard's last Christmas record.

All of which should put you in the mood for the local school's nativity play. The only time I was let anywhere near one of those was when I was seven. It wasn't the greatest experience, not after I got demoted from being one of the three kings to hotel keeper. Come the big night as Joseph and Mary turned up looking for a room, I did the only thing an irresponsible brat like me could do and let them have the King Herod suite. And that just about sums up Christmas.