



## Inspector Morse lives

By Marián Bunzl, of North London Chorus

A prequel series of the young life of Inspector Morse will be on ITV soon. Set in 1965, one of the young detective's exploits is to join a small amateur choir, played by 20 assorted members of North London Chorus.

On filming day, we started off in the costume and make-up department, consisting of several trailers in the Homebase car park on the North Circular (oh, the glamour of TV!). We gathered for hot drinks in our hospitality suite, as one by one we were called to be transported back to the 1960s.

### Period and provincial

Tenors and basses had their hair cut or slicked down, and were provided with smart or tweedy suits. Sopranos and altos had their hair carmen-rolled and backcombed and were dressed in short skirts or dresses and cardigans in subdued colours. Except for bright lipstick, make up was discreet. We were to be provincial, not Carnaby Street.

We lined up in the car park for inspection and, passed as suitably period, were invited to the film unit's lavish catering: a large, colourful cold buffet, two or three hot dishes, and a generous choice of dessert.

### Mozart on a loop

The actual filming, in the courtroom of a decommissioned town hall, looked like organised chaos: an army of technicians, a spaghetti of wires, microphones, screens, and a neat little railway track for the TV cameras, presided over by the director in a bright green T-shirt.

We were placed in front of a large back-lit stained glass window, with a podium for our musical director and a piano for our accompanist. Endeavour Morse, played by Shaun Evans, sang among us as we performed a short section of Mozart's *C Minor Mass*, over and over again for endless 'takes'.

Every time the director said "Cut" a flock of young women descended on us with powder puffs and lipstick brushes. Thanks to our MD and accompanist we managed to sing with the same intensity each time.

It was fascinating but exhausting, and we have a new respect for TV actors. We also

appear in episode two in more glamorous clothes, enjoying a post-concert drinks party. Don't miss it.



Dame Edna Everage doesn't look too happy about what she can see in *THE ARCHER*, or maybe standing about on a wet day in Melbourne was getting her down. Photo by Lucy Cormack.

## Ingram Road and the watercress minder

By Peter Cox

In the 1880s, most of East Finchley was common land and woodland, but with the coming of the railway the owners of estates in Fortis Green were selling up to speculative builders. Park Hall, at the junction of Fortis Green and the High Road, was sold, and by the 1891 census nine houses had been built in the new Ingram Road.

Starting on the west side and working down from the north, they were all occupied by men aged between 26 and 45 and their families. The men were typically clerks, salesmen and warehousemen, none from the borough and only three from London. (From the censuses we can see how much mobility there was. Only one, shipping clerk William Hustwitt, was there in 1901 and 1911.)

None of the women worked outside the home. Seven houses had a living-in servant; one had a couple lodging in two rooms. The 1911 census tells us that all houses but one had six rooms: kitchen, living rooms, and bedrooms (bathroom and scullery not included).

In 1891, the enumerator has added another, intriguing household. The 'Cottage in watercress beds' was occupied by a 52 year old under-gardener from Cambridge, William Murrell, his 48 year old wife, whose occupation was 'minding watercress beds', and their three children: twin boys of seven and a daughter of five. The watercress beds were 12 narrow rectangles in Cherry Tree Wood, then called Dirt-house Wood. (It was the point where carts arrived with hay from farms to the north and returned with soot and manure from the City.)

By 1901 the watercress beds had gone, William was dead, the family had moved to Prospect

Place, and the twins, then 17, were milkmen.

Peter runs a North London U3A group to help people research their roads and houses, and who lived in them. You can contact him on [coxpeter@btinternet.com](mailto:coxpeter@btinternet.com).

## Flyers are up and running

Would you like to get into shape and meet some new people at the same time? Then if you are a runner why not join East Finchley's new social running club, The East Finchley Flyers.

Every Tuesday night at 7pm the club will be running various 5-10k routes from the tube station followed by drinks in the Bald Faced Stag. Three groups will go out every week: gentle joggers up to 5k at an easy pace, medium level of 7k and an upper level of 10k or more.

Ideally you will be able to run for 30 minutes continuously as a minimum but otherwise the club is open to all ages and all levels of fitness. For more information and membership offers, contact [runcsocial@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:runcsocial@hotmail.co.uk) or call or text Nick on 07795 503752.



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