



Honour for Wendy

Congratulations to Wendy Hallett who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours last month. Wendy is the founder of Hallett Retail and the Fuse fashion network, based in the High Road, which brings together young and boutique fashion brands and runs concessions in high street stores and online.



Before setting up her successful business, Wendy spent 13 years at Arcadia progressing from graduate trainee to store manager, including overseeing Topshop's Oxford Street flagship store.

This year, she was chair of the Retail Trust London Ball which raised over £1 million for the Retail Trust, the principal charity of the retail industry.

Wendy said she was "thrilled" by the honour, which recognises her services to diversity in the retail industry.

Station to bloom again

By Sheila Armstrong

There were gnomes at the Chelsea Flower Show this year; could they also appear outside our tube station this summer? The theme for this year's Station in Bloom competition is 150 Years of the Tube.

N2 Gardeners, who look after Station Bank, the sloping garden to the right of the station entrance, think that two things are special about East Finchley station: the fact that the trains come up from underground at this point, and the art deco station building with the sculpture of Archie.

Station employee Santos Ninor has entered East Finchley station for the Station in Bloom competition again this year.

Can you help?

N2 Gardeners say the first task is fundraising and they'd welcome all kinds of help with this, including financial dona-

tions. Other help needed is general gardening preparation (on Station Bank particularly) and planting and upkeep of the platform tubs as judging does not take place until later this month.

Monica Alaman of N2 Gardeners told *The Archer* that last year was a lot of fun: it was a shared local initiative and many commuters and passers-by expressed their appreciation of the "greened" station. Offers of help for N2 Gardeners this year would be very welcome, please contact them via n2gardeners@gmail.com, or via their blog, n2gardeners.blogspot.com.



Getting creative: Glass tiles and papier mache cars are among the items to be decorated at Tina's studio

Hands-on creativity

For anyone with a creative impulse inside them, there's a new outlet at the Creativity Crazy studio at the north end of East Finchley. Tina Phillips has set up a light and airy space where anyone can drop in for a spot of painting on pottery, ceramics, canvas and glass.

Tina, who originally trained as a baby sensory therapist, decided to follow her interest in arts and crafts by setting up this family-friendly studio, where all ages are welcome. She offers a wide range of items for decoration and one attractive point is that there's no studio fee so you only pay for the item you want to paint, all other materials are free.

Opened at the start of May, the studio in the parade of shops in the High Road opposite the Vue cinema is already attracting a steady flow of children, teenagers and adults. Tina has plans for holiday workshops for children, and adults' eve-

nings where painting can be accompanied by a glass of wine. Find out more at www.creativitycrazy.co.uk

Dig deep for the Big Dig

Here's a reminder following our report in last month's issue that East Finchley's first Big Dig takes place on the weekend of 13-14 July.

The weekend is all about discovering the history of East Finchley and is based on the Channel 4 Time Team archaeology programme approach.

People are being asked to dig a one metre square test pit in their garden to help uncover the past. Each square will be part of a mosaic that will build up a bigger picture of what was going on in former decades and centuries.

The East Finchley Big Dig is run by a partnership of the East Finchley Community Trust, the University College of London research project and the Hendon and District Archaeological Society.

If you want to know more please contact Roger Chapman on 07855 304 488 or email us at efbigdig@gmail.com. There's more information at: <http://east-finleybigdig.wordpress.com/>

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Dress code: Casual

Once upon a time when the Queen got crowned and everyone knew their place, a man was not a man without a tie. Wearing your first tie was a rite of passage for boys, alongside learning to tie your own shoes or being allowed to use cutlery. It separated the boys from the babies and meant you could now grow up to be a man just like your father.

Back then ties weren't just for work, they were for life. From the first day at primary school to the day you died, a man was not a man without a tie. And it wasn't just Monday to Friday. At work it was dark suit, black shoes, white shirt and sober tie. At weekends it was cavalry twill trousers, a check shirt, brown shoes, blazer and a casual knitted tie. Some men probably wore a tie with their pyjamas.

Back then, when people stood up for the National Anthem, opened doors and gave up their seat for ladies the only time a real man was allowed to get away without wearing a tie was when playing sport. And just to avoid confusion, Britain's first Grand Prix world champion, Mike Hawthorn, raced to victory wearing a bow tie.

Then something changed that has distorted the space-time continuum. It wasn't The Beatles or rock'n'roll, it was the Silicon Valley geeks who invented the dress-down Friday and ended the reign of the tie.

Nowadays, in the post-modern digital age of 48 different coffees everyone is dressing down on Fridays. Topshop and Burton's boss Sir Philip Green was spotted without a tie and even the prime minister was seen tie-less on holiday. Montague Burton must be rotating rapidly in his grave.

What next? Will the Queen start dressing down and appear at some state occasion in tweeds and green wellies? Will Charles abandon the admiral's uniform and turn up looking like he's just popping out to talk to plants. And what about Anne? Will she open a hospital looking like she's just ridden in the Grand National? Once something like this has started it cannot be stopped and the next thing you know Prince Harry will be photographed playing strip pool in a Las Vegas hotel room...