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A detail of the 100 year old copy of the Daily Sketch found when The Exchange was being renovated. Photo Mike Coles

Yesterday's news today

By Nick Young

Everyone finds unexpected objects when renovating a house or shop, but how often does one find something over 100 years old?

That is what happened to businessman Abdul Idrissi, who found a 1914 newspaper underneath a stairwell while

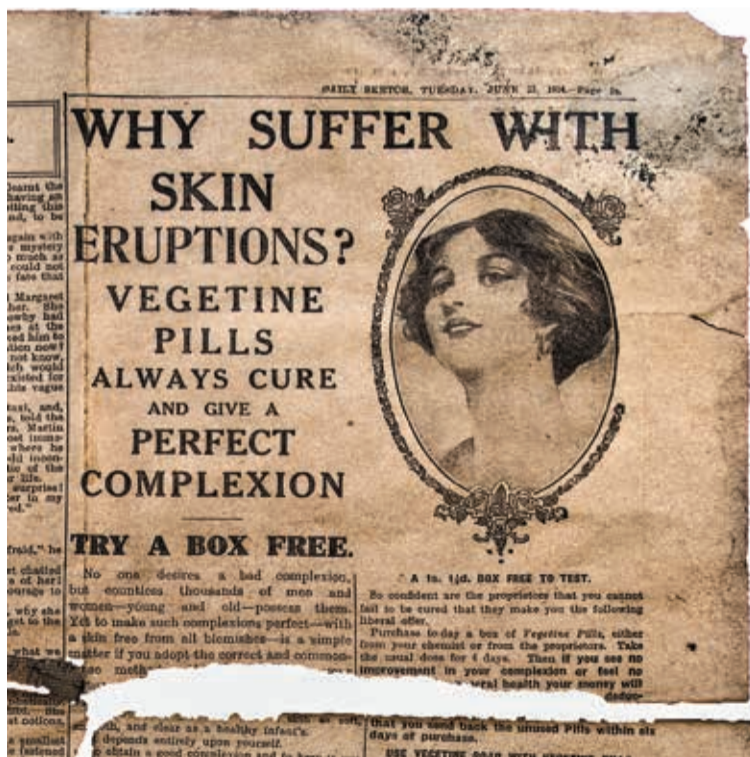
renovating 54 High Road prior to the opening of The Exchange, the site previously occupied by Phone City on the corner of High Road and Fairlawn Avenue.

The copy of the *Daily Sketch* that Abdul found is dated 23 June 1914, not long after the parade of shops on which his business is located was built. The big news of the day was the Trooping of the Colour, to which the then Prince of Wales (the future Edward VIII) took his own camera in order to photograph the troops. Elsewhere, the paper wondered what Londoners would make of a new opera that had shocked Paris.

Abdul was particularly taken by a headline which reads "American Heiress To Become An English Duchess"; although there is no follow-up article, he found it appropriate as his business's parent company is American.

The Exchange in East Finchley is the first UK franchise. It deals in phones as well as other new and pre-owned technology and offers on-site repairs for mobile phones and laptops and a phone recycling service.

Following a consultation process, it even sells computer games. "We're the only games store within a three-mile radius," says Abdul.



Adverts 100 years ago certainly didn't mince their words. Photo Mike Coles

Own an orchard?

The Urban Orchard Project is looking for old orchards in London, where it can work with local communities to preserve and celebrate them, through orchard management, pruning workshops and apple days.

Project officer Stephanie Irvine said: "Orchards must consist of at least five trees and preferably be over 20 years old. They may be overgrown and neglected, or managed

by a community group that would like some assistance with recruiting volunteers and holding events."

Find out more on the website www.theurbanorchardproject.org

New primary school plan

Parent information event regarding a proposed new primary school was held at East Finchley Library on 21 January.

The Ara School is applying for permission to open a new, state-funded, non-religious school in September 2016.

Ever increasing demand

The borough faces an ever increasing rise in the demand for primary school places. No site has yet been selected, but Barnet Council favours the Coppetts Wood area, which is deemed to have the greatest need. Visit www.araschool.org for more information.

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