



Grace Guia at the Delicia Vintage Market. Photo Mike Coles

## A taste of the past

By Diana Cormack

The Delicia café at 4-5 Cheapside, Fortis Green, is serving up more than its usual fare on the last Saturday of every month. From 4pm to 8pm an indoor market takes place, where tables are set with a variety of collectable, interesting and unusual objects.

An intriguing collection of china, glassware and pottery from years ago can be found alongside 1960s handbags, jewellery and fabrics. There are old pictures and posters to be leafed through, while modern hand-made cards created from past and present materials are on offer.

Louise Glass's Naildetail stall had a wide range of accessories for the hands, including an exclusive hand cream. Argentinian weaving artist Dina Resca's work and Gabriella White's handmade eye masks made out of vintage material look interesting.

It's worth a visit if you enjoy

browsing through bric-a-brac or are looking for an unusual present and you can treat yourself to a cake and a drink at the same time! For further details and to enquire about a table or space please contact 07879 816 420 or [deliciafortisgreen@gmail.com](mailto:deliciafortisgreen@gmail.com)

## Building a dragon with the Baroness

By Ann Bronkhorst

Minister for Transport Baroness Susan Kramer visited Coldfall Wood on 6 February to see some of the work done there in recent years, to meet representatives of groups involved with the wood (now a Local Nature Reserve) and to plant a young oak tree.

Cheerfully braving mud and brambles, Baroness Kramer helped to plant the sapling in the most recently coppiced area of the wood, bordering Creighton Avenue. As most of Coldfall's oaks are roughly of an age, some new tree-planting is part of the management plan for the wood.

### Outdoor learning

One encounter demonstrated how a wood on the doorstep can be a source of learning and enrichment. Some year two children from Coldfall Primary School were making dragons, using their surroundings and imaginations. Deputy Head Ewan Marshall explained to Baroness Kramer the ideas behind Forest School education and the benefits to the children. She looked as though she would have liked to join in!

If you too are curious about Forest School Education, Ewan Marshall will be leading a Forest School walk for adults in Coldfall Wood on Saturday 7 March, meeting at 11am at the east gate on Creighton Avenue. For details, visit [www.coldfallwoods.co.uk](http://www.coldfallwoods.co.uk)

## Unwanted items wanted

The RSPCA plans to open a second outlet in North Finchley, to compliment its East Finchley shop, which has now been trading for over a year.

However they are desperate for donations to stock its shelves, particularly clothes. Drop them in to the High Road shop if you have any.

The charity's animal clinic in Park Road is supported directly by the funds generated by the shop.

## Three-car accident blocks road

By Janet Maitland

A collision involving three cars blocked Durham Road, N2, to traffic for several hours on 2 February.

"We heard an almighty great bang at about 2pm," said a resident who lives nearby. "Two cars had crashed and one had shunted a parked car into a wall. The police didn't arrive until much later. The cars stayed slewed across the junction with Bedford Road, with their miserable cold drivers standing around for hours. Breakdown vehicles removed all three cars during the evening."

A police spokesperson said it was a damage-only collision, with no injuries and no arrests. The road was cleared at approximately 6pm.

### All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.

(Refreshments are served after mass on Sunday and Thursday)

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.

Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,  
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.

Experienced singers are always welcome.

Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>

# Memories of war inspire new novel

By Diana Cormack

Already an accomplished author in the field of government and politics, *ARCHER* contributor Neil McNaughton has now turned his hand to fiction. Well almost, because much of his first novel *The Turning Wheel* (available on Amazon) is based on fact derived from the wartime memories of his father and grandfather. Neil's family knew there was a suitcase of diaries, letters and memoirs from the two world wars, but did not realise the extent of the collection until they were sorting his late mother's effects.

### Convoy heroism

His mother's photo is on the book's front cover: one of the many women who waited for news of their loved ones through those dangerous years. For the latter half of World War 2 her husband Frank served on the *Zamalek*, a convoy rescue ship which picked up more survivors from the North Atlantic than any other. *Zamalek's* history of involvement in some remarkable wartime incidents is reflected in Neil's story of an entirely fictional vessel, the *Aida*. Her crew is loosely based on real people Frank wrote and talked about, with the main character Tom Haldane being based on Frank himself.

### Brief encounters

Central to the story is the 'blind date' scheme in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at Christmas 1941, when the town's social committee organised a group of local women to provide sailors with entertainment. The future lives of the four leading characters are shaped by their relationships with the four women they met.

"It's about fate," Neil said. "When you could be facing



Neil McNaughton .  
Photo Diana Cormack

death at any moment, how do you live?" Indeed, many did not. This is underlined by the destruction of convoy PQ 17 in Arctic waters and the battle of convoy SC 122, where *Zamalek* took part in rescue operations, and in the extensive rioting and looting which broke out in Halifax at the end of the war. The book brings this to a climax with Tom realising that a pre-war prediction is proving horribly true and that he and his crewmates are merely pawns in a game of chance.

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