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# The Archer

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## Floods, football and fancy weddings... from 85 years ago

By Diana Cormack

It has become an accepted fact that the contents of skips outside houses which are being cleared or renovated can provide useful pickings for interested passers-by. Recently in my road some ancient carpets were deposited, not one of which was worth rescuing, but something that had been laid underneath them certainly was. Blowing along the pavement were a couple of sheets of paper from the Daily Telegraph of November 1935, pictured below.



A quick look revealed similar subjects to those of today: fashion, football, fundraising, exhibitions, royal activities, photographs of flood scenes in the south of England showing houses completely marooned and complaints that the Oxford rowing team were prevented from practising because the river was two feet higher than usual and still rising.



**Wedding gifts**

But the mention of a horse did catch my eye and that was in a wedding report. I was amazed to read that the bridegroom's present to the bride was a hunter. In return, she gave him oil paintings of hounds (presumably his own).

Gifts from others included a horse rug and head collar; a kitchen outfit; an Indian lamb fur coat; a fox fur; an Afghan knife and guns. Gold, diamonds, emeralds and rubies were abundant in the jewellery they both received but I was glad to see spoons, a toast rack and a glass bowl holding their

own and there were plenty of cheques mentioned.

**Coincidence**

Of course it was a society wedding and I doubt if many present day gifts bear much resemblance to those listed but it certainly made interesting reading. I was also amazed to see a photo showing troops entering the Cathedral Church of All Saints at Khartoum for the 1935 Armistice Day service. At that time my father was based on an RAF camp there!

## Power pair prove they are London's strongest

By David Melsome

**Congratulations to Gaby Knops and Emma Whiteman, both from East Finchley, who took first and second place in the battle to find London's Strongest Woman.**

Personal trainer Emma met massage therapist Gaby at Pure Gym on East End Road and persuaded her to enter the competition. They were called on to squat with weights up to 120kg, repeatedly lift a 35kg log above their heads, hold a 15kg axe in front of them for as long as possible and deadlift as much weight as they could manage.

World's Strongest Man competitor Laurence Shahlac and four-times Britain's strongest woman Andrea Thompson refereed the gruelling event at Genesis Gym back in January. Emma described it as "brutal" but said she and Gaby were pleased to take the top two positions.

She said: "Weight work has so long been seen as a male-dominated sport, but competing against 15 other women was a wonderful experience. And to place second behind Gaby made me feel really proud that I had introduced her to this sport. "For me, it was great to see so many women involved in a strength sport. Resistance work is so important for women, particularly as we get older. Women who use resistance work as part of their exercise routine have a higher bone density, which can help prevent osteoporosis in later life."



Strong women: Emma Whiteman, left, and Gaby Knops celebrate first and second place.

Follow Gaby on Instagram @beyondbasetherapy and Emma @north\_london\_lifter

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 Securebase Ltd  
 112 High Road, East Finchley, London N2 9EB  
 T: 020 8442 0660  
 F: 020 8365 2788  
 info@securebase.co.uk  
 www.securebase.co.uk