



Book shop turns gallery for paintings of nature

A fabulous series of delicate and well-observed watercolours depicting nuts, berries and leaves that can be found on woodland walks appeared in the window of Black Gull Books in the High Road last month. Owner Chris Overfield gave exhibition space to the work of local artist Andrea Tierney, who said: "I was so happy to collaborate with Black Gull Books on an exhibition, a real one, not merely online."

Andrea had painted items she had picked up during walks in the park or on days by the sea. "My pockets are always bulging with found woodland treasures and my bag is heavy with stones collected by the seashore," she said.

In her studio she lays them out, photographs them and sets about painting. "I guess the reason why I collect these things is because they speak to me. When I paint, I deepen my knowledge of them, understand their significance. To paint means more than creating a



Treasures: Andrea Tierney at Black Gull books. Photo Mike Coles

thing of beauty, it's establishing its value, its importance, its place in the world and my relationship to it."

Andrea came to London from Austria in her 20s and has lived and worked here ever since. She trained in Fine Art and Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where she

was a student in the masterclass of one of Austria's foremost painters, Anton Lehmden. In her 50s, she joined Central Saint Martins College for Art and Design on a course in textile design and print.

Find out more at www.andreatierneydesign.com and on Instagram @andreatierneydesign

Wedding guests party on pavement after being barred from pub

By Janet Maitland

What started as a booking at the Clissold Arms on Fortis Green, N2, for two tables for six for a wedding reception, ended with police forcing about 80 people to leave the premises.

"At around 5pm on October 12th the first group of six arrived and we immediately realised they were from the travelling



Litter-strewn: The morning after at the Clissold Arms

community so we refused them service and asked them to leave," said manager Kyri Pattichi.

"We know from previous experience and from feedback from other pubs that once you let these people in, they take over, refuse to leave and do as they please, hence we refused them service and called the police.

"They must have called friends because by 5.45pm there were around 20 men sitting in the garden with their own drinks and around 10 women inside refusing to leave."

Four officers arrived and managed to move the women to the garden area, advising the staff to lock all the doors and turn off the outdoor lights and heaters.

Escalating problem

However, by 8pm the number of travellers had grown to 'around 80 people' and the police were called again. This time the police closed the garden gate and refused entry to other people who were still arriving.

"By 10pm the police had managed to get everyone out of the garden and we locked the garden gate," said Pattichi.

"However, they congregated on the pavement outside and despite the heavy rain they stayed there until around 2am.

"This incident was out of our control and something that we could not foresee beforehand. They are not our customers and they are not welcome and we told them so on the night."

A police spokesperson told *The Archer* that a group of men were reported to have been asked to leave the pub after consuming their own alcohol on the premises. "Officers attended and the group left. There were no arrests," said the spokesperson.

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team, updates us on the latest crime news. Jan and the team can be contacted by email at: EastFinchley.snt@met.police.uk, or by phone on 020 7161 9014. Follow the team on Twitter @MPSEastFinchley.

Catalytic converters

Unfortunately East Finchley has seen an increase in thefts of catalytic converters from motor vehicles. The most vulnerable are Toyota Prius and Honda Jazz models as they have a higher road clearance or a converter that is easy and quick to remove. It is hard to protect your vehicle from these thefts, which can be completed in less than five minutes.

There are now on the market, however, more affordable alarms and shields that can be fitted to vehicles, including the Catlock and the CatClamp®. These do not come cheap at £200-£300 but the cost of a new converter, repair and fitting is close to £1,000.

The Met police are working with scrap yards and metal dealers to prevent the onward sale of stolen converters. It's an offence that could see them closed down.

Covid testing scam

"Good afternoon, I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for seven days and take a Covid-19 test."

A call which starts this way may not be suspicious but if the caller goes on to ask for payment to send you a testing kit you should terminate the conversation with immediate effect.

Covid testing through the NHS is free but scammers are trying to extract £50 from victims who may have come nowhere near the virus. Never hand over any payment information, no matter how plausible the caller sounds.

Big night in for another brick in the wall

In our report last month on the Finchley Foodbank, which operates from the parish halls of St Mary's Church in East Finchley, we mentioned the additional battle to raise money to repair the church's all-important boundary wall. Separating the car park from the High Road, it is splitting and leaning, and repairs will cost in the region of £30,000.

As for so many other charities, organisations and individuals, Covid-19 has drastically hit St Mary's finances and the church is appealing to the com-



Split personality: The cracked front wall of St Mary's is in urgent need of repair.

munity to help repair the wall by buying a virtual brick or a pile of bricks. Local businesses which buy "a company of bricks" starting at £100 can expect their trades to be promoted in a parish directory circulated weekly to over 400 households.

To help repair the wall by buying a virtual brick, starting at £10 for non-businesses, go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/thewall.

Back to the 70s

St Mary's regularly runs fun events such as its annual seniors' lunch and Christmas Fair. This year, as part of The Wall campaign, and to

thank the community for their donations, they are hosting an online 70s Disco Big Night In, a lip-sync karaoke dance show with eight acts beamed to your living room.

The event will be live streamed on www.saintmarys.online on Saturday 28 November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. You can vote for your favourite act and send in photos of your 70s outfit (and of the 70s if you were lucky enough to be around then) on the night. You can also send 'groovy' donations at any time by texting WALL to 70970 to donate £5. On the night, total text donations will be announced.