



Tony's 'uplifting' new children's book

By Alessio Pavarani

Singer-songwriter and author Tony Andrews is a man of many talents. Not only has he been gigging locally, he also has a new book available to buy titled *Louise and the Laundrette Lady*.

Tony started off trading as a key-cutter, but all the time his true passion was making music. Alongside a friend, he performed weekly in London. His songs were played on radio and he currently has seven available to download on iTunes, with more on the way. He played in Madden's on the High Road, N2, on Sunday 18 October.



Storyteller: Tony Andrews

During a family funeral, he discovered that his great grandfather was Edgar Wallace, one of the original scriptwriters for the 1933 monster movie hit *King Kong*, and this provided the inspiration for his new book, the third he has written. He has even managed to intertwine his

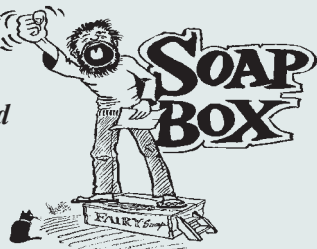
passion for music by creating songs about some of the characters in the book.

Louise and the Laundrette Lady, available now, explores the wild adventures of ten-year-old Louise Buttersky after losing her parents in a freak hot-air-balloon accident. Visiting the local laundrette in a seaside town she encounters eccentric laundrette lady Betty, who turns out to be a wizard's daughter and soon becomes Louise's guardian angel and protector.

As the book develops, we are introduced to more characters who form a dream team in an effort to defeat the evil, whisky-drinking witch Roaring Meg.

Tony says his dyslexia is more of a blessing than a curse as a writer as it forces him to spend more time in his brain, assisting his creativity. He said: "There's a great deal of negativity being passed around at the moment and if anyone wants to delve into something positive and uplifting, my book is the ticket".

Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column. Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Dreams to make you scream

By L C Ward

For as long as I can remember I have had very vivid dreams, often so vivid that I can recall them months later. Occasionally I dream them again and know, whilst dreaming, that it is a repetition.

Since coronavirus, however, there has been a scary change in my night-time mind's activities. It started with me hurling myself out of bed, but I only realised what had happened when I woke up tangled in the duvet, resting against the bedside cabinet.

In the dream I was having, I had been rushing at an intruder trying to force them out of our house. Quite often there are two intruders, one armed, and I manage to slip by them, open the front door to a deserted street and yell for help.

Recently this dream has developed into a variation on the theme that I am about to be attacked, always in the back and usually by someone wielding something sharp like scissors or a knife. Or there is something evil or ghostly behind me which I can't see but know is lurking there, a terrifying threat. As this manifests itself or the physical attack begins, I start to scream and subsequently wake myself up. It takes a while to calm down and to ease my strained throat!

A radio phone-in has just reassured me that I am not the only one with such sleep disturbances. Having decided that Covid-19 is probably the threat manifested in those dreams, I am now trying to reassure myself with that thought whilst I am still dreaming. Apparently this is possible. As I am sometimes able to go back into a dream after being awake for a while, I'm hopeful that I can wake myself up from these dreams before I get to screaming point.

It would be interesting to know if there are readers with similar examples of experiences they believe have been brought about by this present pandemic situation.

Letters



Miniatures: More street paintings appear. Photo Gemma Davidson

Street art

Dear Editor,

I saw your back page article about the small paintings in East Finchley (*The Archer*, October 2020) and thought I'd email. Unfortunately I don't know who the artist is, but back in July I noticed some of them in Finchley Central, opposite Tesco, outside the old Job Centre. I thought they were brilliant and was sorely tempted to take one, but just took some photos instead!

Gemma Davidson,
Address supplied.

A welcome improvement

Dear Editor

As a cyclist, bus rider and pedestrian I would like to say what a marvellous improvement the recent and continuing works on the High Road really are. The removal of parked cars and vans especially near Oak Lane and the 20mph speed limit have made crossing the road safer and created safe space for cycles.

Oh what a joy it is now to cycle north through East Finchley (stopping to do some shopping) in the 20mph zone and down to cross the North Circular on safe cycle lanes. I do hope Barnet Council will make these changes permanent so that people will start cycling to the shops to bring much needed business to our high street.

In these extraordinary times with Covid-19 being a mere side-show to the catastrophe of global warming these improvements are very welcome. And I didn't mention there are also a benefits to buses and peoples' health, life expectancy and well-being! I hope the council is monitoring the beneficial changes.

John Silvertown
Address supplied.

We are left fuming

Dear Editor,

In an age where many of us are more concerned with air qual-

ity it's only right to encourage cycling. However the sweeping changes currently in progress on the High Road are already causing long queues of stationary and slow moving traffic at what would normally be quieter times of the day. We all end up with the resulting fumes to breathe in.

We then have the ripping out of pedestrian safety measures around the popular crossing point of the St Pancras Cemetery and far reduced parking for the businesses we have relied on during the pandemic. As I write the work is on-going and it must come with an extraordinary price tag when there is apparently no money for other vital needs such as school meals.

You do start to wonder if Long Covid is in fact the collective madness descending upon this nation that this heavy-handed scheme is but one of the local symptoms.

Almar Hafliadason
Lankaster Gardens, N2.

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page" The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE or e-mail news@the-archer.co.uk

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be printed. Contact details can be withheld on request at publication. We reserve the right to abridge letters for reasons of space.

Don't just drop

Dear Editor,

East Finchley is a lovely community but recently I have noticed a build-up of litter. The tipping point was seeing a face covering tied to a tree. Today, I chose to do my own litter pick along one of the county roads to try and at least clean up my street as a starting point. The majority of the 'big litter' was disposable face coverings, rubber gloves and food packaging.

This took me two hours in total. Unfortunately, less than half an hour since putting my tools away, I pop to Sainsbury's and find another disposable face covering on the floor outside my house. This is not only disheartening after spending two hours cleaning up one street, but it's also not fair on others. Can we all please be conscious of our face coverings and more? I know it's sometimes an accident but, if you drop yours, please pick it up and help us get East Finchley cleaner.

Name and address supplied.

Delivery dos and don'ts

Dear Editor,

I don't know who the army of deliverers *The Archer* newspaper has are, but I'd like to thank them for closing my gate and pushing the paper right through my letter box and not leaving it poking out as a signal to burglars that I may not be in. Perhaps you could hold a training course for other deliverers, other than my fabulous post person, who leave all sorts sticking out of my letterbox, if indeed they make it to the box at all given how many useless adverts litter my garden!

Jonathan Mule,
Address supplied.

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

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and Weekday masses as advertised on the website
Face masks must be worn for the time being.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef/>

The church is also open for private prayer as advertised on the website.

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information, contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on 020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com

or check out our website:

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