



Ripping yarns... all in 50 words or less

Thanks to everyone who got their creative juices flowing for the Fifty Word Story Challenge we set back in April. Here we print some of the best tales we've received.

Can you write a story in 50 words or less? Email: news@the-archer.co.uk or post to The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 2DE.

The Mystery

Woman, by Stroller

Walking along East End Road, a woman passed me wearing a grey skirt, a red anorak with the hood pulled over her head, a face mask and dark sun glasses. As we passed she waved to me. She clearly knew me, but I have absolutely no idea who it was...

Deep Listening, by Valerie Archer

The wind speaks to each leaf on each tree as it whistles across the Heath. Animated and alive - the leaves weave their dream for the world into fables for the birds who gift songs of

truth to the morning. Do you hear? You may need to tune your ear.

The Developer, by Laurence Robinson.

The houses he built despite the opposition of neighbours, whose rights he had trampled, would make him a lot of money. Then the estate agent said there was another development planned next door and they were now unsellable. The irony was lost on the developer, and so were his profits.

Red Alert, by Diana Cormack

"Don't touch that flashing red button, Mr President. It's for automatic atomic attack activation. The flashing blue one is pause for peace talks. That's the one to push...Oh no, why the hell did you do that?" "Hey, Senator, didn't anybody tell you I'm colour blind?"

Prequel to VE

Day,
by Alex Leppard

Gently laying down the lifeless body of the wife he'd just shot, he raised the still smoking gun to his temple. Allowing himself a brief moment of reflection on what might have been, he pulled the trigger. His 1,000 years' Reich was over.

A Welcome

Relief, by DeBear

I wanted to walk in the countryside but the police were there and said I had to go back home. Oh no, I replied, the virus levels have fallen, and we are now allowed to go out when and where we like. They just smiled and walked away.

The Rocket

Scientist, by Jake the Peg

"50 words?" he said to The Editor, "For my life's work? It took 50 years, and £50 billion." Outside, 50 rockets with 50 atom bombs rose into the sky. In 50 minutes the world would be blown back into the stone age, as though it were 50 centuries ago.

Where in the world quiz: the answers

Thank you to everyone who took part in our picture quiz, published in our December edition. We're glad that many of you enjoyed using your daily walks to search for the ten mystery East Finchley locations in our photos.

Winners were chosen at random from all the correct entries we received. Congratulations are therefore due to £30 first prize winner Maria Cogo, £20 second prize winners Holly and Lauren Ketchell and £10 third prize winner Howard Chapman. And for anyone still flummoxed by any of the photos, here are the answers:

1. Sign painted on the wall outside the Bald Faced Stag pub, High Road.
2. The old girls' entrance to the former Holy Trinity School, East End Road, now The Learning Experience pre-school.
3. Coat of arms above the Royal Mail sorting office in Market Place
4. Metal bench in the play area in Cherry Tree Wood
5. Front window of the Phoenix Cinema
6. Sign outside the Windsor Castle pub in The Walks
7. Old shop advertisement above Finchley Wines, on the corner of the High Road and Leicester Road
8. Shutters on the front of the kiosk in Cherry Tree Wood
9. The painted side wall of the Clissold Arms in Fortis Green
10. Banner in the booking hall of East Finchley Underground Station
11. The bell tower of Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane
12. The roofline above the Barber Shed and Animal Aid shop in the High Road.



In memory of a dear friend

People living in the area of King Street, N2, have got used to seeing a collection of cuddly toys perched in the large tree close to Ferrour Court. They were placed there in memory of Kathleen Sturman, who died in June at the age of 39. Friends and neighbours have also put a framed photo of Anfield stadium in the tree, in recognition of Kathleen's love of Liverpool FC.

FUN and MUSIC for BABIES and TODDLERS in N2 on **TUESDAYS** and **THURSDAYS** at 10am



with
LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT
ON VIOLIN AND GUITAR
at EAST FINCHLEY BAPTIST CHURCH,
Creighton Avenue



<https://www.facebook.com/teddybearsmusicclub>
<https://www.facebook.com/SteppingStonesEastFinchley>
or text 07836 284538