



Memories of our festival in the 1970s

East Finchley Festival has been running since 1974, though as you'll see in The Archer Archives (see www.the-archer.co.uk) May 2014, page 6) it could even have been much earlier than that. Here, one 97-year-old reader remembers helping out with the festival in the mid-1970s.

I was a volunteer in a make-shift crew for the first East Finchley Festival held in Cherry Tree Wood. My memories start with deliveries of timber for stalls and stages, Portaloos, platforms etc. being unloaded there during Friday before opening day. That evening, committee members and their hardy adolescent children slept in sleeping bags on site to ward off marauders.

On Saturday at crack of dawn the layout of stalls, stages and catering venues began. My job was to prepare food for the masses. This involved displaying mostly home-made contributions of mouth-watering cakes, tarts, pastries plus oodles of filled pitta bread and various sandwiches. All were pounced on and enjoyed, so we soon sold out. Then only a few local businesses provided any refreshments so our takings plus those of the beer tent were bolstering the Festival accounts.

As I lived, and still do, near the Wood, during the afternoon the treasurer with a couple of 'minders' would call in to deposit instalments of cash on the dining room table to be counted and collected later.

The festival opened with children from local schools wearing fancy dress parading down the High Road with musical accompaniment. These groups provided the amateur entertainment throughout the afternoon, all vigorously applauded by friends and neighbours. Everyone knew everyone else in those days in our own 'London village' so every effort was welcomed uncritically.

We were blessed with fine weather. A rainy day would have left a debt and no hope of staging a yearly event. So at six o'clock, food eaten, beer drunk, music played and dances danced, the clear-up commenced. Soon the Wood was in pristine condition and plans were being made for the next year.

LATER and TWINS.
Asa's winning words were
double word answers



Ink-credible: Double pen winner Asa at The Archer's festival stall. Photo Richard Tank

Asa's a double word winner

Thanks to everyone who came to see *The Archer* team on our stall at the East Finchley Festival back in June. It was wonderful to chat to you and to hear your ideas and stories.

And a special thanks to all you wordsmiths who took part in our fun free game 'Not Quite Countdown' where we challenged you to make a word from five Scrabble letters picked at random from a bag. Winners received a coveted Archer pen. It was the luck of the draw and

not as easy as it sounds but eight-year-old Asa, a pupil at Garden Suburb Infants School, made it look like a breeze. He amazed us all when he made a five-letter word on his very first attempt, just as he had done when he visited our stall at the last festival in September 2021.

Here are the selections Asa had on his two attempts. Can you guess the five-letter word he made each time to make him a double winner? Answers are at the foot of the page.

A R T L E, I W T S N

A vision for tolerance in memory of Miriam

By John Lawrence

Last month marked the 17th anniversary of the 7/7 London terrorist attacks that killed 52 people, among them Miriam Hyman, of East Finchley, who was on the bombed bus in Tavistock Square.

Three years after her death at the age of 32, her family set up the Miriam Hyman Memorial Trust, which is working to build community cohesion as her legacy.

In time for the new school year, the trust has created a set of education resources that it hopes will be taken up by teachers of 11 to 14-year-olds to help them approach sensitive issues surrounding violent extremism and wider community issues.

Built around six national curriculum subjects, the Miriam's Vision material also incorporates values including tolerance, rights and democracy, and themes including resilience, empathy, conflict resolution and

diversity. Miriam's mother Mavis said: "We have carefully addressed some of the issues surrounding 7/7 and extremism, so relevant today, and hope that any student whose school uses Miriam's Vision will never be drawn into hateful ideologies. Quite the opposite, they will be inspired to help build a more cohesive society."

Esther Hyman, Miriam's sister, added: "We have improved Miriam's Vision in response to feedback, so it is ready for more schools to embed it in their planning. So, KS3 teachers, try Miriam's Vision in your classroom. Parents and young students out there, talk



Legacy: Miriam Hyman

to your school about it."

All Miriam's Vision materials are freely accessible in the Miriam's Vision section of the trust website at www.miriam-hyman.com.

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS in EAST FINCHLEY

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with Creche**

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From The Archer archives...

By Jane Marsh

10 years ago:

August 2012

The long saga of the disused, and now demolished, pavilion in Cherry Tree Wood began in August 2012, when Barnet Council gave notice of its intention to grant a 25-year lease on the building. Previous plans to turn the pavilion into a community café had come to nothing and, following its deterioration and eventual demolition in 2020, the site has now been grassed over.

15 years ago:

August 2007

Popular local hostelry the Bald Faced Stag re-opened after major works, having been transformed into a 70-seater, open-plan gastro pub. General manager Tom Foley said at the time: "East Finchley has been crying out for a quality pub serving quality food, a great wine list and fantastic service." However, some locals regretted the loss of the pub's pool tables and fruit machines.

23 years ago:

August 1999

This month saw council approval and funding awarded for a much needed new zebra crossing in Fortis Green, near the junction with Durham Road, N2. A long running campaign for the crossing was given added impetus by the sad death of a local resident at the site earlier in the year, following a hit-and-run accident with a motor cyclist.

Thanks from Angie

Local singer Angie A says a big thank-you to all who came along and all who performed at her Connect2 ReConnect Platinum Jubilee Shindig at The Clissold Arms on Sunday 5th June.

She says her vocal group performed really well and with poetry from Ruby Joseph, comedy from Maggie McHugh and a few songs from Angie herself plus more, it was an uplifting event for the local community.

Holy Trinity Parish Church

67 Church Lane, N2 0TH
www.holytrinityeastfinchley.org.uk

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*Holy Communion & Children's Sunday Club: Sunday @ 10.00 am - In Church
Morning Prayer: Thursday @ 9.00 am - Online*

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