



Former PC Sandy is still in uniform

By Lynn Winton

For those of us in the N2 part of Hampstead Garden Suburb, Police Constable Sandy Clifford was our popular dedicated ward officer for many years and I often stopped to talk to her on her beat along Deansway.

So imagine my surprise when I walked through the lobby of one of London's most iconic and glamorous hotels recently and saw the smiling face of none other than... Sandy Clifford. Sandy retired from the Met Police after 30 years but was definitely not ready to retire from full-time work. Not surprisingly this famous May-

included protecting residents from personal attacks, robbery, and burglary from houses, sheds, and from commercial premises.

"Then there was drug usage in open spaces that was frequently identified by residents as a problem. I worked closely with Barnet Council on issues such as misuse of disabled badges, anti-social



New role: Sandy Clifford in central London

fair hotel (which cannot be named, as her work demands anonymity) snapped her up as their security officer so she is not out of uniform just yet. As much as she loves her demanding new job, she spoke fondly of her years on the beat: "I focused mainly on crime prevention. My duties

behaviour mainly from neighbour disputes, and begging in the streets. I am proud that I helped make it the safest London area that's enjoyed by residents and visitors alike." Sandy asked me to send her regards to all those that took the time to connect with her over the years.

Coronation concoction

In this Coronation year Finchley Symphony Orchestra and conductor Christopher Stark are presenting a Celebration of Britain with a concert that includes three popular pieces each with a very different musical flavour.

Hamish MacCunn's *The Land of the Mountain and the Flood* paints a lyrical picture of the wild Scottish landscape. Benjamin Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* is a unique setting of six poems by English poets calling for great virtuosity from the singer and horn soloist.

Finally Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fifth Symphony*, like the Britten, dates from the Second World War but could hardly be

more serene and unwarlike. It rapidly became a favourite and was highly praised by fellow composer Jean Sibelius.

All of this music can be enjoyed at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, on Saturday 20th May from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18, concessions £15, under 18s £7 and you can save £2 per ticket by advance booking online at www.finchleysymphony.org



Brothers in arms: The Finchley RFC players and their Granite Bay visitors circle together after their hard-fought matches

American visitors prove fierce opponents for Finchley teams

By Luke Hammersley

International rugby came to the area last month when Finchley RFC played two matches against visiting junior rugby teams from California.

The Granite Bay teams are based near Sacramento and are coached by former USA international player Chris Miller. Their UK tour saw them playing in Bristol, Cardiff and in Summers Lane, North Finchley.

First to kick off were the Under 18 age group, taking on a combined Hampstead, Enfield Ignatians and Finchley Barbarians side put together for the match. It finished with a 45-5 victory for Granite Bay taken in great spirit, with everyone enjoying the match.

Next up the Finchley Under 16s side, captained by Ollie Mullen of Wren Academy, were in great form to take on Granite Bay Under 16s after a strong league season. This was a fantastic close game of rugby with both sides showing powerful running and strong defence.

Only in the final five minutes was a Finchley victory secured with a try and conver-

sion ensuring the final result was a 27-12 win to Finchley.

Both sides showed good handling skills and the HEF Barbarians worked the ball well to score.

California here we come

Granite Bay joined Finchley in their post-match huddle to congratulate one another on such a well-fought match, followed by celebrations, exchange of plaques and speeches from captains in the Finchley Rugby clubhouse. From all at Finchley we wish Granite Bay Rugby every success and perhaps we will head to California for the return fixture soon!

Rugby is a game that embraces all shapes and sizes. If you are interested in playing rugby then girls and boys rugby is played from age 4 to 18 at Finchley every Sunday, from Sept to May, with senior men's, veterans, mixed and women's touch rugby teams also playing weekly. We are a vibrant RFU affiliated community club who welcome everyone to join us. Visit finchleyrugby.com to find out more.

Choral premiere

Finchley Chamber Choir are staging a concert this month featuring the first performance of a work by one of their own members. *Dymock Songs* has been written by singer Richard Cox.

The concert on Saturday 13 May at 7.30pm at Trinity Church, Nether Street, N12, will also include Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell* and four choral songs by Edward Elgar.

Tickets cost £18 full price, £15 concessions (including students and over-60s), £6 under-18s; available from the choir's website www.fcchoir.co.uk or at the door.

Indoor car boot

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 27 May from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop close to the hall. More information from 020 8368 8180.

From The Archer archives...

10 years ago:

May 2013

The long demise of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute continued with its partial move from its purpose-built Arts Centre building behind East Finchley station to Bishop Douglass School. The Arts Centre was to house the newly established Archer Academy with the Institute retaining access to specialist art rooms on the ground floor. It was the Institute's financial difficulties that had forced the organisation into this co-location arrangement with the Archer Academy.

15 years ago:

May 2008

According to the British Geological Survey, East Finchley was one of the places most affected by an earthquake in February. Several residents recorded their experiences of the event: "I felt the tremor quite violently", "The glass in my bookcase was rattling", "My bed shook", "The chandelier was shaking".

23 years ago:

May 2000

The passageway through East Finchley station was preserved after plans by London Underground to block it with ticket barriers at the Causeway entrance were abandoned. London Underground Ltd cited strong local opposition as the reason for the change of plan but, surprisingly, they had not bothered to consult local interest groups beforehand.