



Stories to tell: Baroness Young, second from left, with guests at the Black History event at Age UK

Tales of inspiration from experience of Baroness

By Karen Williamson

People from all backgrounds enjoyed Age UK Barnet's celebration of black history, food and culture in East Finchley last month, where Lola Young, Baroness Young of Hornsey, shared a few stories from her incredible life.

She told guests at the charity's base in Oak Lane, N2, about going into foster care at the age of eight after her parents separated. "Five of us were sleeping in the same room and there was no bathroom," she said.

But by 2004 she had been made a peer of the realm and

was giving her maiden speech in the House of Lords. "I saw Margaret Thatcher talking to Normal Tebbit and I thought whatever they've achieved, I'm here too."

She left her listeners with an important message: "It's important to look back at our history and share stories and learn from

the past so we don't end up making the same mistakes."

East Finchley resident John, who is part of the Windrush generation, spoke movingly about his first impressions of London when he came here as a young man.

"Everyone had a fantastic time celebrating our wonderful culture and I was overwhelmed by the positive comments from people afterwards from all walks of life and backgrounds," says Age UK Barnet services manager Jenny Jean-Charles.

Recycling project gets back on track after difficult year

By Emma Frampton, Bin There, Donate That
The Bin There, Donate That project was set up two years ago and aims to simplify recycling and upcycling for East Finchley residents by providing easier places for them to take items that cannot be given away, sold, or left kerbside.

In our first year, we recruited a few volunteers and began to establish the name along the High Road. However, the last year has presented challenges as well as positives. It has been difficult to continue this project over the last year due to my own work commitments, but with a number of new volunteers we are back on track.

We spent a lot of last winter trying to become official in order, in part, to advertise for support. This was a frustrating three or four months of going round in circles until the East Finchley Community Group stepped in to take us under their wing. We are extremely grateful to them.

As a result, we have now advertised and recruited several new volunteers. After a year abroad, Isabella returned in the summer and has been instrumental in organising the admin and meeting some new members. Alongside her, and equally important is the new manager, Dominic.

Over the next few months, we hope to reinstate the blister pack collection at Oakdale Pharmacy, begin to raise some funds, and improve our communication with local businesses.

If you haven't already,

please check out our website and social media pages to get updates on Bin There, Donate That, and we will continue to keep everyone informed in *The Archer*.

We would like to thank the East Finchley residents who have embraced the Bin There concept, and give a welcome to anyone with an interest in us. A full list of what can be taken where for now is on our website; if you'd like to get in contact, please email us at bintheredonatethat@gmail.com, or contact us on Facebook.



Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road.
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road

RICKY SAVAGE ...

THE VOICE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

Circus minimus

Soon parents everywhere will be searching for something to do with the kids at Christmas. Well, roll up, roll up because everyone loves a circus, they always have.

Let's start with the Romans who had the Circus Maximus, a race track for chariot racing, a sort of speedway meets banger racing with added horses. And then there was the Coliseum, where you got blood-curdling fights, full-scale sea battles and, on special feast days, the Roman equivalent of the FA Cup final when the lions took on the Christians. Then the lions took on the bears, the tigers, the leopards and anything else that was heading for extinction. This was the Roman equivalent of a nice day out for all the family.

Oh boy, how times have changed. Everyone knows what you used to get with a proper circus, the sort they used to show on TV on Bank Holidays. You got high wire acts and trapeze artists flying high above the arena in death-defying stunts. There were clowns with exploding cars, custard pies and baggy trousers. And back then they, like the knife throwers, weren't extras from some horror film, they were meant to be funny, but usually weren't.

Dancing elephants

And there were still animals. Lots of them, usually starting with dancing elephants and women standing on the backs of horses that raced round the ring. Sure, throw in the performing seals who'd do anything for fish, the camels with attitude and the performing poodles, but the main attraction were still the lions.

Every kid loved the sight of a man putting his head in a lion's mouth, followed by various roaring and cavorting in a cage. Some days you'd get tigers jumping through hoops of fire. A real treat for the kids, but obviously not for the tigers who hate fire.

Today, the circus animals are long gone and the cutting-edge spectacle is left to us humans to provide. We nearly had such a circus on our doorstep in Cherry Tree Swamp until everyone saw sense and it was moved to higher, dryer ground. Mind you, it would have been the perfect place to recreate those Roman sea battles.

Mulled Cider

Mulled Wine

WINDSOR CASTLE

Annual

Community CAROLS

Windsor Castle

The Walks / N2 8DL

6pm to 7.30pm

Wed 13th Dec

FREE MINCE PIES

www.windsorcastlen2.com

Birthday concert

Fifty years to the day since it was formed, Finchley Chamber Choir is celebrating its anniversary with a special concert in a central London venue.

The choir will be performing Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Concerto Grosso Op3 No4, Bach's Lobet Den Herrn and Handel's Dixit Dominus in the company of the Linden Baroque Orchestra. The concert takes place at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, W1J 9LL on Saturday 11 November at 7.30pm. More information and tickets, from www.fcchoir.co.uk