



The final cut

By Diana Cormack

After forty years of hairdressing in East Finchley, Maureen Adkin is all set to wave goodbye to "Ruffles", her salon at 220 High Road. She has been there since 1981 when she took over the premises which had previously been known as "James' Cut and Curl", though older readers may also remember it as "Peggy's".



Maureen Adkin, Ruffles hair and beauty clinic

They may also recall "David Henry" which was situated opposite the tube station. This was where Maureen started as a Saturday girl in the mid-fifties. She lived in Muswell Hill and was a pupil at The William Grimshaw School (now Fortismere) when it opened in 1955. Ray Davies of "The Kinks" was in her class and Rod Stewart was in the year below.

That has not been her only brush with fame for, when Dame Barbara Cartland's usual hairdresser is away, Maureen goes to her house to do her hair (almost "by royal appointment").

Maureen says that she will

really miss the many lovely friends that she has made in East Finchley.

Nail order

However her daughter, who is a beauty therapist, will continue to run her nail extension business at the same place and her husband is going to open a pine shop there. He designs and makes pine furniture as well as restoring and selling antique furniture, and the shop will be called "Pinewood Antique Studios".

Maureen will be helping in the shop, so it will not be a complete parting, and she would really like it if her old friends could pop in sometimes for a cup of tea and a chat.

Easter

By Len Willcocks

Easter is coming; Easter with its chocolate eggs, hot cross buns and other celebrations.

For many it is a welcome break in the daily routine, the first holiday of the year. Trains, coaches, roads are crowded as people leave the cities and head for country or sea; airports are packed as many fly out to warmer climes.

But, how did it all start, this early Spring festival? Why is it called Easter?

We go back centuries, back to Roman times and before.

Eostre gen

The goddess of spring, named Eostre, was honoured as symbolising the coming of new life, when nature was waking from its winter sleep.

Eggs were given as gifts even then and in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world real eggs, carefully decorated and handpainted, are used for Easter morning breakfast.

But for Christians, Easter week has an added significance.

Palm readings

The week starts with Palm Sunday, commemorating the entry into Jerusalem by Jesus over a carpet of palms. At the end of the week is the triduum, the three days from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening.

The Holy Thursday evening service with its feet washing ceremony signifies Jesus washing the feet of the disciples as an act of loving service.

With Passion

On Good Friday, Jesus' ordeal on the cross, is often commemorated by marches or processions, and the Passion is enacted in churches and elsewhere.

On Easter evening, worshippers gather round the Paschal Fire, then enter the church with lighted candles to signify the coming of the light of the world and to proclaim the risen Christ.

RSPCA Meeting

By Daphne Chamberlain

Between 8 and 20 million exotic birds are trapped in the wild each year. Up to 4 out of 5 of these die before they even reach the pet shop.

Animal welfare is a wide-ranging subject, covering trapping, food production, transportation and many more areas of concern.

On 6th February at Avenue House, the RSPCA Finchley and District Branch invited the three main political parties to say what they intend to do to alleviate much unnecessary suffering.

In full cry

On the whole, there was a consensus of opinion. All the speakers condemned blood sports, the quarantine law and non-medical drug testing, and supported the bill on puppy farming.

Rona McDonald, the RSPCA Parliamentary Liaison Officer, had something to say

about the difficulty of getting measures that most MPs support onto the statute books.

The RSPCA has been lobbying in Europe for thirteen years, as part of the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare. Labour and Liberals were united in stressing the importance of working through Europe to get anything done, even though some other European countries don't regard animals as feeling creatures.

Ms McDonald said "More pressure must be put on MEPs".

All parties have now produced their manifestos on animal welfare, which deal with these and many other points.

It is now up to the electorate to judge between them.

Election Free Zone

By David Hobbs

Short of emigrating to an isolated island far from the tentacles of the BBC World Service, there will be no escaping the election. Quite honestly, it is a rather frightening prospect and one that we felt had to be dealt with if we were not all going to die of electionitis long before polling day.

So the entire Archer team decided that it was time to do something about this sanity-threatening problem and declare The Archer an "Election Free Zone". We promise to say nothing about "New Labour", the only detergent to wash the Reds out of politics.

Shorts schrift

We even promise not to mention underpants in case it reminds any reader of the Prime Minister.

We shall be a haven of insanity in an increasingly sane and pre-occupied world, our shop of the month will not be John'n'Ken's Cut Price Euromart, we will not do a piece on a day in the life of the husband of a QC, nor shall we print the reminiscences of a one-time officer in the Navy's Special Rowing Boat Squad.

We shall remain Election Free. Besides, as Ken Livingstone said, "if voting changed anything they'd abolish it" and, from the way things are looking at the moment, the only thing to do is to misquote Disraeli, because the nearest thing to a Tory in disguise is the "New" Labour Party in office.

Sinking feeling

So, when the national press screams about politics and photo opportunities we shall follow in that great tradition of the local press and only report the local.

Just like that paper that reported the sinking of the Titanic with the words "Titanic hits iceberg, local man saved", we shall headline our election issue with the words "Election Free Zone".

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