



Eugenia von Piccardio outside the Hospice Shop. Photo by Erini Rodis

## Thanks a Million

More than 40 past and present volunteer workers were invited to a party to celebrate an extra special event at the North London Hospice Shop. After eleven years at 123, High Road, the East Finchley branch had succeeded in raising an amazing million pounds for their very worthy cause.

The celebrations were organised by manageresses Eugenia G. Von Piccardio (pictured outside the shop) and Mary Boylan.

### OBITUARY

## Irene Friedman: a Good Neighbour

A resident of Leslie Road for some forty years, was Irene Friedman who sadly passed away on 29 October, after struggling with cancer for five years.

Irene was born in Breslau in 1920, and spent her childhood in the Sudetenland (now divided between Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland). She lived through some of the 20th Century's more sordid moments of history. In 1938 her family collected money for her and her sister to escape the Nazis but they found themselves in Vienna exactly when the German army occupied Austria! She and her sister proceeded from one country to another until they arrived in England. Within a few months Irene joined the army, where she served until the end of World War II.

Irene ran school kitchens in London from then until she retired fifteen years ago, and was active in the Communist party the whole time. She was always interested in education (her own having been interrupted) and was one of the early proponents of the University of the Third Age. After the effective dissolution of the Communist Party, she joined the Labour Party and was in at the start of the women's movement. In fact it was typical of Irene that she always said that the Communist Party left her!

#### Passionately committed

Irene was also a passionate supporter of the East Finchley Community Festival, and was one of the longest serving volunteers. Along with her partner Muhith Gholam, she was involved in a wealth of other community and local interests including the Finchley Pensioners Rights, The Neighbourhood Centre, Long Lane Improvement Association, Joint

Action Committee to Pensioners Rights, Barnet Pensioners, Stop the (North Circular) Road and the East Finchley Village Society, as well as being one of the first Tree Wardens at the age of 77.

It is not very often in life that one has the chance to encounter someone who has experienced

so much, and yet retained their youthful interest in what was going on as well as a commitment to help others. Irene had these qualities in abundance, and was a link with some of the darkest moments of European history. Like the events she witnessed, she will be remembered for a long time.

### OBITUARY

## George Derx: Farewell to a Friend

By Toni Morgan

**THE ARCHER is sad to report the death on 17 October of George Derx, a long time resident of East Finchley and friend of THE ARCHER.**

On his return from army service in 1946, George lived at his family home in Leslie Road for the next 44 years. In 1990 he moved to sheltered accommodation in Homefield Gardens where he spent a happy last 12 years, proving very popular with his fellow residents.

At over 6 feet in height and upright with it, George always stood out wherever he went. A lifelong bachelor, he led a varied social life; he was a past member of the Constitutional Club, a member of Northside Bridge Club (of which he had been Chairman for over 25 years) until the last, a non playing member of Muswell Hill Bowling Club and a regular patron of the Five Bells where he was a member of a Monday Night Quiz team. George will be missed by many, he was often to be seen sitting on a bench in East End Road

outside the Five Bells, enjoying the sunshine and having a chat with passers by.

## New Minister for Church

**East Finchley Baptist Church on Creighton Avenue has a new minister. 36-year-old Simon Dyke has moved to this area with his wife, Claire and their two children, aged 8 and 6. Before his appointment to the Baptist Church, Simon trained for the ministry at Oak Hill Theological College, in Southgate.**

Originally from Exeter in Devon, Simon said, "We're enjoying settling into the local community here in East Finchley and we've appreciated the welcome given to us by people in the church." Commenting on his priorities as the new minister, he said, "My main concern is for people to see the importance and the relevance of the Bible for their lives today."

Beginning in December there will be an opportunity for people to find out more about the message of the Bible with a series of special events on

# Changes at East Finchley Electrical

By John Dearing

Chris Loizou first established East Finchley Electrical Contractors in 1972 providing electrical services and supplies for North London and East Finchley in particular. Dino, who has a degree in business studies from South Bank University, joined him six years ago, and took over the business last year, specialising in contracting. Michael, who has an HND in business studies, joined them at about the same time and now runs the retail side of the business.



Display at East Finchley Electrical - photo by John Dearing

They install and repair all manner of electrical systems and supply sockets and cables, bulbs, batteries and so on. Throughout the past year they have expanded into white goods.

They have recently refurbished the shop, incorporating an attractive lighting display which includes a water feature in the window, to promote their new line in lighting and CCTV.

Michael says that the best

way to promote a business is by word of mouth from satisfied customers, but, to reinforce that, they have been long time supporters of and advertisers with The Archer.

#### The Team

East Finchley Electrical has a team, presently 15 strong, of qualified electricians and apprentices on day release to study for their NVQs. They are a multi-national group, with Greeks, Australians, New Zealanders, and English among them. Team-building activities include meeting each month for an evening in Maddens, a team Christmas dinner and they are considering (the management with some trepidation!) an outing to a paintball park.

Michael is a keen player of 5-a-side football, despite (so he says) his advancing age. Both Michael and Dino are keen Arsenal supporters and say that the recent run of defeats was "just a little blip, and they are back on track now" - THE ARCHER is, of course, entirely neutral in these matters.



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