



Friends and neighbours celebrate with a picnic. Photo by Daina Cormack

Cherry Tree Jubilee

By Diana Cormack

Eileen Cannon, who runs the café in Cherry Tree Wood, organised a special event to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

An entertainer amused the children, many of whom dressed up to take part in a right royal fancy dress parade. Even Eileen's two dogs were decorated for the occasion. A celebration lunch was accompanied by music provided by a talented group of 16-year-olds from Fortismere School.

Many people turned up to join in, but unfortunately a long and heavy outburst of rain managed to disperse them and a power-cut hampered the meal preparations. However, Eileen and her stalwart helpers carried on smiling through and their hard work ensured that a lot of locals were left with enduring memories of a happy Jubilee Bank Holiday.



Bran the dog sporting a red, white and blue collar. Photo by Diana Cormack



The Bolsha Band. Photo by Diana Cormack

A Funky Jubilee in Cherry Tree Wood!

By John Dearing

One of the more lively Jubilee celebrations in East Finchley took place in Cherry Tree Wood on the bank holiday Monday, when a group of young musicians played a spirited and well-performed set of funk, jazz and reggae, in the area beside the kiosk. They also performed a few days previously at the Green Man community centre for the Jubilee.

They are an amalgamation of two bands based in East Finchley and Muswell Hill, and originate from year 11 in Fortismere School. Faith Millin-vocals and Hannah Lustig-percussion are one half of a new ska/punk group, *The Cherry Bombers* who are growing in popularity, while Josh Goodrich-bass, Tom Parkinson-drums and Dominic Conway-guitar were taking time off from their rock/blues band *Stoned Death Games*. In addition, there was also a guest appearance from Louise Harrigan (vocals).

After the success of this gig, they were encouraged to find a name for this local super-group, and the drummers came up with *The Bolsha Band*, derived from the Bolsheviks (the revolutionary communist party). This is justified by the drummers with their claims of equality and demands of microphones for each band member.

All three bands also appeared at East Finchley festival 23 June and *The Cherry Bombers* will be putting on shows at The Verge near Kentish Town Station on 5 and 8 July.

THE ARCHER SHOWCASE

Featuring work from members of local writing-groups

Actively imaginative

Daphne Chamberlain introduces Indu Tarkunde

Indu and her husband came from India 35 years ago. When their marriage broke up she was left completely alone with two sons. Already a doctor, she gained her Fellowship here, and became a consultant radiologist at North Middlesex Hospital.

Now retired, she says that educated Asian women get on well. "It is the ones who come here as wives of their husbands, not understanding English, who can get into difficulties." Her concern led her to voluntary work as Chair of the Asian Women's Resource Centre. She helped in teaching English, giving practical advice, and support against domestic violence.

Nowadays she is involved in AGLOW (Association of Greater London Older Women), an activist pensioners' group.

Indu has lived for 35 years in the same East Finchley house, ideally sited for her hobby of walking - in Kenwood, Highgate Woods or further afield with a rambling group.

She started writing a few years ago, mostly about her own life for her grandchildren, but also enjoying the stimulus to her imagination. "I couldn't let my imagination take over as a doctor. That would have been disastrous!"



Celebration

By Indu Tarkunde

I was hesitant about going to this wedding.

Many people, mainly women, were coming from India, America, Australia and different UK cities - all to stay in my son's house in Edinburgh. He had married a girl from India and the bride-to-be was her sister. She was 35 and had met the groom on e-mail. They had corresponded, talked for hours on the phone, met and decided to marry.

I was full of good wishes for her, but having been here for over 30 years, I had lost the art of communal living. How would 20 of us, with at least six children, live in one house? It was big, but there were bound to be difficulties.

There were none. They looked after their own needs and each other's children, kept the house clean, laughed a lot, and sang and danced late into the night. They had a great capacity to enjoy themselves, and an enviable capacity to stand the loud Indian music for several hours. Most of them were cousins or friends. They were like a clan, very close, but because they lived so far away, never a nuisance to each other.

They were Sikhs, and as the Edinburgh Gurudwara - the Sikh temple - was not available, with frantic efforts they got one in Glasgow. They went there in the morning, had a "Bangle Ceremony" in the afternoon, and cooked an

excellent extempore dinner for the bridegroom's family in the evening, for which there were 30 people.

Having no relations here apart from my children, this was a novelty to me. Will future generations be so close? The people who have moved out of India are nuclear families, but they remain close to their Indian cousins. They do not have the pressure of an extended family, and so they can keep that camaraderie with cousins abroad. In addition, I feel they seem to have a feeling of missing India.

I come from a different part

of India, where education was important. We became more rational, basing our moral values on reason, not religion. We absorbed Western thought, sometimes more so than Westerners. In that process we lost the capacity to enjoy ordinary things. We gained a lot, but we lost something.

I am the only one from my family who left India. I am somewhat of an alien there. I am an alien everywhere.

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