



# One Halloween Night

By Gene Lotti

**One Halloween night, when George Hughes was on the sofa reading a newspaper, he heard a knock on his front door.**

When he opened it, he saw standing in front of him a little girl aged about 11 or 12, dressed as a witch.

"Trick or treat?" she asked. "Trick", George finally replied, thinking, "What possible harm could this little girl do to anyone?"

Very seriously, the little girl said, "I hereby cast a spell on you!"

George merely smiled,

and the little girl turned away. Then, as he closed the door, he noticed that the passage around him appeared to be four or five times bigger than before.

As he looked at the floor, he saw that both his legs had turned green, and were bent firmly downwards in a crouching position. Just then, his wife began to come downstairs.

She suddenly gave a loud scream. "George, George, come quickly! There's a frog in our corridor!"

## LETTERS

### Health Hazard

Dear Archer,

There has been a burnt-out and smashed-up vehicle at the junction of New Trinity Road and Oak Lane for a couple of months. It is still there even after informing the council at the beginning of this month. It is becoming a health hazard and very unpleasant. When will these vehicles be dealt with - without all the council's and DVLA's excuses and the wasting of my council tax and road tax?

Regards,

An unhappy East Finchley resident (Name & Address supplied)

### Ridiculous

Dear Archer,

Is there any chance that you can write something in THE ARCHER about the new ridiculous traffic lights along East End Road at the T Junction with Ossulton Way? The traffic jams in rush hour are getting worse and worse, and it seems to me that the green lights for Ossulton Way are on far longer than the ones for East End Road. Is this part of the Ken Livingstone rubbish about slowing everything down? If so, people are going to be so late for work that they will probably lose their jobs.

I am hoping that you receive many emails about this.

Brenda Marriott, Cancer Research UK London Research Institute

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA

## GARDENING

### Garden Visitors

By Zena Robson

Looking back over the summer I conclude that I had quite a good one! I visited some lovely gardens, including Hidcote which I haven't been to for years. The magnificent mixed borders there were reminiscent of Christopher Lloyd's Great Dixter with its flamboyant planting of reds and oranges, fabulously huge cannas with dark purple leaves springing up in big clumps to add height and drama. It was HEAVING with people, something that I am in two minds about - it's great that so many people are interested and of course they have every right to be there; on the other hand, just not when I am there!!

I also visited the Floriade in Amsterdam - a once-a-decade experience and nothing like any 'garden' show here. The area was vast and the nearest thing I have seen to it is the garden-city area built in Liverpool ages ago. That has all pretty much gone to rack and ruin, whereas the plan for the Floriade site is to keep many of the structures and make the area into a new public park. The displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables were very imaginatively laid out. Some countries had their own areas, developed into garden representations of their cultures; the most popular part was the Asian/Indonesian area, not least because of the wonderful Indonesian food on offer! I didn't see much of the modern prairie-style planting; there was some use of grasses mixed in with herbaceous but it seemed to be under trees rather than in a prairie!

#### Glorious colour

Now on to autumn and its delights. If you can, arrange a trip to Westonbirt to see the fabulous colours, or Sheffield Park where, on a sunny day, the trees are reflected in the lakes so you get double the glory! Acers offer particularly good colour - if you haven't got one then think about it. Smaller types do well in tubs; just don't put them in an east-facing position as the young leaves in spring can be zapped by the morning sun after a frosty night. They don't like too much sun as they get leaf-scorch and shrivel. Admittedly, they are also quite pricey, but I think they're worth it!

## To Weeds

By Pam Smith

I have two gardeners, Bill and Ben,  
Who come and weed just now and then.  
They fight their way through bushes green

A single weed cannot be seen.

They trample on the flowerbeds

Then they stand and shake their heads.

"Ah," cries one, "A weed I spy!

Now, you monster, curl up and die."

Oh little weed, I'm sorry now

We killed you, and I take a vow

That when I see another weed

I'll tell the gardeners to take no heed.

Let it grow and see what comes.

And when a bee flies by and hums

He flies from flower to flower and weed,

Of lowly birth he takes no heed.

Pollen is pollen to a bee

However humble a flower might be.

So let's be kind to little weeds

And let them shed their little seeds

(Within reason, of course,

In case they multiply in force!)

Pam Smith lives in Cherry Tree Road. She wrote her poem at the East Finchley Methodist Church Wives Club. The club meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at 2.30 pm.

## ? THE ARCHER ? ? PRIZE QUIZ ?

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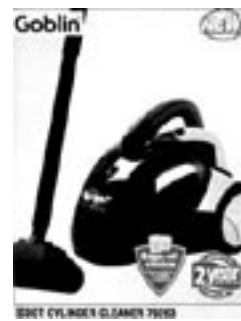
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