



# Anyone for cricket?

By Paul Chapman

The success of the England team in regaining the Ashes last summer should be a tremendous boost to the sport of cricket.



Photo by Paul Chapman

Keerthi Ransinghe, who coaches youngsters at the Middlesex indoor nets on East End Road, said it was good to start as young as six or seven years old. Commenting on the current popularity of their cricket courses, he said, "The youth courses for this term are fully subscribed and there are many promising young players."

However, other local sports enthusiasts are less optimistic that youngsters will gain from the popularity of Freddie Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen. Unsurprisingly, the issue is lack of funds.

Burt Gravis at Haringey Sports Development, a chari-

table trust, said that local cricket was limited to clubs "mainly in the east of the Borough" and in primary schools where there was "support from the Middlesex Trust".

Paul Ealy, speaking for Sports Support from Haringey Council, said that in Haringey "cricket is not a high priority because limited funds makes it better to concentrate on strengths at the moment which are football, athletics, netball, dance and gymnastics".

It would be gratifying if the government encouraged local authorities to support our young cricketers, as the next Andrew Strauss could be living in East Finchley right now!

# Pop up to the museum

Children and adults with a love of pop-up books should hurry along to a new exhibition running at the Church Farmhouse Museum.

The exhibition, entitled 'Movable and Toy Books', runs until 19 March at the museum in Greyhound Hill, NW4.

In the 1770s, Robert Sayer produced the first movable 'turn-up' books, in which flaps on the pages were lifted to change the pictures. They are known as 'Harlequinades' as they were based on contemporary pantomimes featuring the characters of Columbine and Harlequin. In this period too, 'peepshows' began to appear: cut-out scenes placed one behind another, set in a frame to give an overall 3D effect. These started a quickly growing interest in 'toy books' with flaps and movable pictures.

Their popularity continues to the present day, with master-designers such

as the American Robert Sabuda creating intricate works of paper engineering. Barnet councillor Katia David, cabinet member for Culture, Community Engagement and Human Resources, said, "This exhibition adds a whole new dimension to an ageless, constantly evolving type of book that has only increased its allure over the centuries."

For more information visit Barnet Council's website: [www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk) or call Church Farmhouse Museum on 020 8203 0130.

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# Winter warming tips for water pipes

Now that the winter weather has arrived and with forecasters predicting a particularly cold season, Thames Water is advising customers to make sure their water pipes are well wrapped up. Its tips to prevent burst pipes are:

- Lag pipes in the loft (or anywhere else likely to freeze) with felt or pipe wrap. Tanks should also be lagged but remember to leave a clear space underneath to allow warm air to circulate.
- Check that loft insulation is thick enough and still in good condition. Run it over the pipework where possible.
- Repair dripping taps and overflows. When the temperature drops to freezing, a build-up of ice could prevent water draining away efficiently.
- When temperatures are very low, leave the trap door to the loft ajar so warm air from below can circulate.
- Ensure you know where the stopcock is so you can turn it off in an emergency.
- Keep the name of a reliable plumber to hand.
- If the worst happens and the pipes do freeze, turn the water off at the stopcock and thaw pipes slowly using a hot water bottle or cloth soaked in hot water. Never use a blow lamp or heat gun. If they burst, turn the water and central heating system off before calling a plumber. It will also be necessary to have the electrics checked by a qualified electrician.

Phil Scholes, customer services director at Thames Water, says: "During the winter we experience an increase in the amount of bursts and leaks in our own mains following a sudden or prolonged spell of freezing weather. Customers can also have this problem in their own homes and businesses, which causes major upset and inconvenience. The risk is even greater if people are planning to be on holiday during the winter. A few simple precautions are all that is needed to prevent a nasty shock on returning home."

# Letters to the editor

## Help build a safer neighbourhood

Dear Editor,

Just a quick letter to update you with the progress of the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

As you may be aware, the team plans to re-locate to 113 High Road where the police office is under construction. Work is nearly complete and we anticipate moving to the new office early in the New Year.

As a consequence it is anticipated that in January we will set up three Community Action Panels covering the areas of the Grange Estate, Strawberry Vale Estate and East Finchley village.

As Safer Neighbourhoods teams engage with communities, through various methods such as meetings or contact points, the teams will gain an insight into the local community's crime and disorder concerns.

In order to ensure that the work of each Safer Neighbourhoods team is focused on resolving these problems, each team will require a process to involve local people in deciding the priorities for their local Safer Neighbourhoods team to work on.

Yours sincerely,  
Police Sergeant Alex Kay  
East Finchley Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Send your correspondence to: "Letters Page", The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA or e-mail [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net).

Letters without verifiable contact addresses will not be reviewed or printed. Contact details can be withheld, however, at publication.

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# KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

## Lunch on the hoof

I was saddened and disappointed to hear that one of Thailand's finest zoos has abandoned plans to let the punters eat the exhibits. Call me weird, but it puts a whole new perspective on the world of exotic eating or, as the French would say, Cuisine extraordinaire.

Back when men were men and most of the world had yet to be 'discovered', your average explorers had few things on their minds, most of them to do with not getting eaten. And, having discovered that not everything out there wanted to eat Europeans, they decided to do the eating themselves. Pity the poor dodo, slow, edible and rapidly extinct. OK, so it wasn't as tasty as a turkey, but who cared? From there it was just a short, sharp shot to the cooking pot and extinction.

Across North America the passenger pigeon flew supreme. As millions of them took to the air there were enough to block out the sun. By about 1900 the bird was extinct. An early demonstration of the American way with wildlife, probably coupled with some bloke discovering that it was good in a pie.

The French, being the French, probably sent top chefs out to their colonies to explore the culinary possibilities of everything from water buffalo to something small and furry that got pan fried with garlic before anyone got round to working out what it was. A whole menagerie ended up in the kitchen, filleted, marinated, roasted, baked and served with a cream sauce. At the grandest dinners, scientists embraced the spirit of the age and tucked into everything from giraffe to antelope to tiger. Just think what would have happened if tigers had tasted absolutely fabulous stewed with a little rosemary and a few shallots. On second thoughts, don't.

After that golden age of cuisine we went soft and stuck to beef, pork, lamb, chicken and rabbit. It took nearly 100 years before we started sticking ostrich, alligator and kangaroo on the barbie. So, what could be better for the more adventurous gourmet than visiting the zoo, selecting your lunch from the exhibits and settling down to dine on pan fried zebra? Maybe Delia or Jamie would come up with a new cookbook and we could find a new way to drive animals to extinction by eating them. And me? I'll stick to being a vegetarian.

# Nicky Sharp

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