



## Top of the crop

Louise Davidson has spent three hard years training to become a qualified hairdresser and has passed her final tests with distinction.

Nineteen-year-old Louise has been training through the 202 academy in East Finchley, where she began as a junior at the age of 16. Since then she has nurtured her skills and passion for the work and has now become a technician in her own right.

Her examiner Amy, who was a top lecturer at Vidal Sassoon School as well as the head of Aveda School and hairdresser to the stars, awarded her the high mark after appreciating her talent.

Louise said: "One of my models, who was only 21, had dark brown hair; I decided to dye it grey. Amy commented on how innovative that was, and I know the model liked it, because he's been back for me to do it again."

Louise had a two-day assessment to determine her mark, which she found nerve-racking. Her first day was 'salon day' where she undertook the general daily duties of a hairdresser, but applying her technique to models, while being examined. The second day was more challenging, involving the presentation of ten models entirely prepared by her. She describes the style she uses purely as 'me', but takes



Hair styled by Louise Davidson. Photograph by Davide Bozzetti

inspiration from photographer David LaChapelle. This day allowed Louise her own freedom to express herself through creativity. She had total control over the colour, cut, make up and clothes.

Louise's love for fashion work originated from studying Art and Art History at college, which she then incorporated into her career. Her future plans don't stray too far from what she's doing now; she does want to travel, however. "I want to move to Germany for a time not only to see another country and culture, but also to take my fashion work over there."

Take this article into the salon at 202 High Road to receive a 20% reduction with Louise until the end of May.

## Food for thought

By Diana Cormack

**Although it's not unusual to see someone reading a book while they dine alone in a restaurant, to see a group of people doing so might be regarded as a novel experience. But not if you live in East Finchley!**

Early last year an *ARCHER* reader in Huntingdon Road set up a book club consisting of eight of her friends, neighbours and workmates. They decided to take it in turns to choose a book which they would meet to discuss every two months. There is nothing unusual in that, nor in the fact that, despite coming from different backgrounds and holding a variety of opinions, they enjoy listening to and learning from one another. However, listening can be a bit of a problem, depending on where the meeting is taking place.

### Movable feast

As they all work full time, they meet on a Friday night and the idea of combining the pleasure of sharing a book with that of sharing a meal appealed to them. But no one wanted the

hassle of preparing and clearing up a meal for eight people at the end of a working week. So they decided to make it a night out and hold their meetings in local restaurants.

This has proved to be a process of trial and error, for some restaurants have better acoustics than others. At present the group seem to have found their niche at Nahling, the Thai restaurant at 106 High Road, where the upstairs dining room suits their purpose well. Despite having been usurped by a noisy birthday party on the night of *THE ARCHER*'s interview they still managed a lively discussion, helped along by plenty of good food and drink.

If you belong to a reading group with a difference, please let *THE ARCHER* know. Contact details are on Page 2.

## Seasick and homesick: a fisherman's tale

By John Dearing  
**John Macdonald, a former fisherman from Grimsby, has been delivering fresh fish to homes, pubs and restaurants in north London for two years.**

After nearly 20 years working at sea, John decided to stay on dry land and bring his supplies to the capital. He delivers all over north London, including East Finchley, on Mondays and Tuesdays.

On John's first trawler trip in the early 1980s, he worked for £5 a day and was seasick all the way. Undaunted, he joined the crew of a trawler called Ballona that specialised in fishing around wrecks, going on trips lasting four or five days, and landing their catch of cod, haddock and plaice in Holland.

John spent most of the next 14 years on a four-man, 40ft trawler called Whitebank from Grimsby. He has good memories of stopovers in Dutch ports, and bad ones of the weather and seasickness.

Eventually quotas and competition meant they could no longer make a living, and he was forced to move to the big trawlers. These were typically 300ft long and would fish all around the North Sea, the Shetlands, the North-East Atlantic, Iceland and Norway, taking anything they could catch, but particularly herring and mackerel, staying away for



John Macdonald takes a short break outside the Library from his rounds. Photo by John Dearing

five weeks at a time, with one week at home.

He spent five years doing this but missed his family so much that he decided to give up fishing. After learning to drive, he started John Macdonald Fish Supplies, and soon built up

custom by word of mouth.

He delivers all over north London, including East Finchley, on Mondays and Tuesdays.

John can be contacted on 07796 462396 or 01472 329381.

## Local novelist's family ties

By Linda Soper

**Fascinating relationships between family and friends are at the centre of local author Vicky Dowling's first published novel.**

Called *Family Ties* (published by Pegasus at £8.99), the story follows the problems of Niall and Nicky. Their relationship is a strong one throughout the book and other characters' lives are woven into the story, adding sub-plots and twists. The characterisation is convincing and I found the novel un-put-downable.

Vicky's grandfather lived in Fortis Green for most of his young life and later moved to Muswell Hill, where he met his wife. Vicky still lives in north London with her two sons, Chris and Lewis.

*Family Ties* took her two months to write. She has also had poems published in various collections and she is already writing her next novel.

## Jack needs your help

**Come and join a walk from East Finchley to High Barnet to raise money for life-saving treatment for little Jack Brown.**

The family of Jack, aged four, of Bedford Avenue, Barnet, are desperately trying to raise £200,000 to take him to New York for the treatment needed for his rare form of cancer, called neuroblastoma.

A group of East Finchley mums and families are taking part in the Walk for Jack on

Saturday 6 May, setting off from the tube station at 10am and finishing at High Barnet tube station, a walk of about five miles.

To join the fun and obtain sponsorship forms, please visit [www.jackbrownappeal.org](http://www.jackbrownappeal.org) or call 020 8732 3373. Donations are also very welcome along the route up the High Road.

### LICENSING ACT 2003

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that (a) East Finchley Community Development Trust has / have applied to the Licensing Authority of London Borough of Barnet for a Premises Licence to permit: (b) Live Music, Recorded Music, Performances of Dance, Supply of Alcohol for the premises (c) Cherry Tree Woods situated at (d) East Finchley, London N2

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London, N11 1NP.

Appointments to inspect the register can be made by telephoning 020 8359 7995 during office hours.

Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice in writing to the London Borough of Barnet, Licensing Team at the address above, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: (e) 31st May 2006

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Authorities Sub Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to £5000 under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2006 Signed by Chris Mentipty