



## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### Chips with anything

They say that every dog must have its day, but what about frogs, they get a whole 365. And it's not just frogs, there's toilets, languages and, just to prove a point, dolphins and they had last year as well. Yes, welcome to the weird and wacky world of the United Nations international years. And this year is special, because it is the year of the potato.

Who would imagine that the humble spud should get a year to itself? It has been a long time coming, about 8,000 years in fact, because that's when the men in white coats think South Americans first started cultivating them. So what if it took 7,500 years for potatoes to arrive in Europe and until 1680 for the spud to achieve the ultimate nirvana and become a chip? It's still something to celebrate.

Chips, or French Fries as the Americans used to call them before France decided not to help invade Iraq, are not even French. Like Hercule Poirot they actually started out in Belgium. Some blame the British and the First World War for depriving the Belgians of their birthright, but the Americans were calling them French Fries long before that. And the French? Well, it's not the first time they've been credited with something that's not theirs.

But spuds aren't only about chips. You can boil them, bake them, roast them, turn them into flour, make glue and even turn them into fuel for your car. They only thing you can't do is eat them raw, well not if you're human, because we can't digest raw potatoes.

Potatoes are about the only foodstuff that contains just about everything you need to stay healthy. They've got vitamins, carbohydrates and nearly everything else apart from protein. They're not even fattening, well not until you've added butter or cheese or fried them, or fried them and dipped them in chocolate. Which, I guess, brings us back to chips and the original First World War convenience food as invented by the British Army: egg and chips. It's everything you could want in a meal and could be cooked in one pan, in a trench, anywhere. Don't you just know it makes sense!

## Picture editor

**THE ARCHER team is looking for a picture editor. Could you spare a little time each month to organise our photographs for each edition? A small amount of Photoshop work is required to make them ready to print but nothing too complicated. You can also get involved in how the paper is laid out.**

THE ARCHER is a community newspaper run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested, please contact us at the-archer@lineone.net or 08717 334465 or pop along to meet the team at our regular meeting at 11am on Saturdays in The Bald Faced Stag, High Road.

## A Naughty Ninety

By Daphne Chamberlain

A genuine "people person" celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last month. East Finchley's Reuby Hyams told THE ARCHER: "People are the most important thing to me. Society's problems are caused by lack of respect, for ourselves and for each other. I hate ignorance and bullying. The greatest sound in the world is laughter, especially from children and young people."

Reuby's wicked wit continues to bring laughter into a lot of lives. Well known for his work with the Fairacres Monday Club and the Friendship Clubs at Norrice Lea and Muswell Hill, he has a flair for writing poetry, both comical and deeply serious. That came to light in the army in World War Two.

### Recording a life

His war was an eventful one, and he is a former Vice-Chairman of local Jewish ex-servicemen. Some of his wartime memories are lodged in the Imperial War Museum, but now he is busy taping his autobiography for his family. He and his wife of 49 years, Rene, have a son and daughter and two grandsons, Jordan and Riley.

"Keep your brain alive and keep a sense of humour", is his advice to senior citizens. Reuby is a real Cockney, born in a First World War air raid within the sound of Bow Bells, but he and Rene moved to Finchley when



Reuby Hyams with wife Rene. Photo by Daphne Chamberlain

they married. They have lived in Hendon Lane, Broughton Avenue, and three addresses in Elmshurst Crescent since 1954.

He pays tribute to Barnet Social Services for their help with his recent physical problems, but describes Rene as the rock of his life. "We argue, but

## You only sit once

By Daphne Chamberlain

East Finchley artist Caroline Wade has started a line in instant portraits. You or a loved one sit for an hour in the Borghese Luce Arte designer light gallery in Crouch End on a Saturday, and come away with a pencil or charcoal likeness, costing £35.

Someone who has done just that is John Hajdu, president of the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association. He told THE ARCHER: "The idea came about because it was my birthday, and I have never done anything like this before. It was very enjoyable and painless! It's nice to be able to support and encourage a local artist."

Caroline, who lives in Fortis Green, has been taking professional commissions since 2000. With an honours degree from Exeter and training from the Byam Shaw School of Art and the Prince's School of Drawing, she specialises in painting and drawing people.

She always tries to capture the character of the sitter as well as their physical likeness, which is obviously easier to do in several sessions. That, though, takes about 15 to 20



Caroline Wade at work on an instant portrait

hours, either in the studio or in sitters' homes. Caroline says she realised that time and cost could put some people off. So for them her additional gallery work is a tempting alternative.

Couples can book double slots, and children from three years upwards are seduced into sitting still by watching a selec-

tion of DVDs.

So, whether you want an instant portrait for yourself or as a present, call 020 8444 0652 or email info@faceportrait.co.uk, for enquiries or to book a Saturday session (starting from midday). Find out more about Caroline and her work on www.faceportrait.co.uk.

## Powerful music of peace

North London Chorus's forthcoming concert will provide an evening of powerful music by 20th century pacifist composers in response to man's inhumanity to man.

Karl Jenkins's *The Armed*

*Man: a Mass for Peace* is dedicated to the victims of Kosovo, Benjamin Britten's *Cantata Misericordium* depicts the parable of the Good Samaritan, and Michael Tippett's *A Child of our Time*, from which the choir will sing the Five Negro Spirituals, is a celebration of the human spirit in the face of oppression. Don't be put off by the dark themes. It promises to

be an evening of uplifting, dramatic and tuneful music.

The concert takes place at St James's Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 28 June at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £8-£16 from 020 8444 2142 or Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, N10, or at the Chorus's stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood on Sunday 22 June, or at the door.



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