



Behind closed doors

By Janet Maitland

Nine people were arrested in Barnet and seven in Haringey on 25 November as part of the London-wide Operation Athena, which targeted domestic violence. The operation was timed to coincide with White Ribbon Day, a global campaign to challenge violence against women. A total of 293 arrests were made across London.



Operation Athena: Police target domestic violence on November 25th to coincide with White Ribbon Day, a global campaign to challenge violence against women. Photo courtesy Haringey Police.

This number of arrests on a single day may sound surprisingly high, but police receive a call from the public for assistance for domestic violence every minute of every day in the UK. Domestic violence accounts for between 16% and 25% of all recorded violent crime and for 25% of all murders in London.

"I would like to reassure people that this is something we are working to combat 365 days a year," said Detective Inspector Tony Caetano, of Barnet Police. "If someone has committed a violent crime, we will make every effort to arrest them and bring them to justice."

Secrecy and fear

Domestic violence is a crime that happens behind closed doors, much of it unreported. Many victims hide the abuse even from friends and family. Public attitudes also contribute to the secrecy protecting the perpetrators. An Amnesty International survey in 2003 found that more people (74%)

would report a person for kicking their dog than for kicking their partner (53%). Fear is known to prevent many women from leaving a violent relationship. Research shows that the greatest risk of serious harm or homicide is at the point of separation or after leaving a violent partner. On average, two women a week are killed by a male partner or former partner, around one-third of all female murder victims.

Free Helpline

The National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247) provides confidential support to adults and children experiencing domestic violence, including access to a place of safety in a refuge. The Helpline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and calls are free. Interpreters are available for non-English speaking callers. The Helpline can also access the BT Type Talk Service. During 2006/7, the National Domestic Violence Helpline answered an average of 387 calls a day.

Lord's and Ladies

By Diana Cormack

At the end of October I fulfilled a long held ambition, one which was presumably achievable nine years ago only if I had been a cleaning lady. This was to visit the Long Room at Lord's.

Looking from its windows onto the famous cricket ground brought back memories of watching test matches on TV with my father. A cricket fanatic, he would follow play with the sound turned down and listen to the commentary on the radio.

Dad and I always shared a special bond through our love of sport. However, things might have been different had I then been aware that there were rules banning women from certain areas of male dominated activities, the Long Room at Lord's being one.

Dining with Ramps

I was there to attend a testimonial dinner for Mark Ramprakash (Middlesex, Surrey and England) who is probably better known nationwide nowadays for winning 2007's *Strictly Come Dancing* competition on BBC1 rather than for scoring a hundred centuries in his cricketing career. (In case you're interested, he is as good looking off screen as on).

There were 73 guests that evening. Six were women and only three of them went on the guided tour, which included the aforementioned Long Room. Perhaps the excitement of seeing both that and Ramps could have proved overwhelming.

Dinner was interesting, being interspersed with various toasts and speeches, plus a question and answer session involving the clutch of cricketers in attendance. An auction and raffle followed, which included various Ramprakash-related objects such as signed books, pictures, equipment and clothing. One of the winners was Councillor John Marshall, Mayor of Barnet, who acquired a Mark Ramprakash lady's T-shirt. Sadly, my offer to photograph him wearing it for *THE ARCHER* was politely declined.

Online electricity

A long-established East Finchley business has set up a website to help customers get in touch and find out more about its services.

East Finchley Electrical, started in 1973, has a shop in the High Road selling electrical goods and carries out electrical work for homes and businesses, as well as offering a facilities management service. The new website can be found at www.ef-elec.co.uk.



Jane Kessler and her "musical" cakes at the EFAT. Photo by Marian Bunzl

For the love of music

By Marian Bunzl

Behind a performance by The Lupo Consort at the East Finchley Arts Festival in October was a very special love story: a lifelong passion for music and musical instruments.

The concert at All Saints Church, Durham Road, was a memorial for the late Dietrich Kessler, an outstanding violin and viol maker and restorer. He looked after other people's instruments and collected and made his own, often spending many years on detailed study and research in order to achieve the optimum authenticity.

The result was great beauty of sound and craftsmanship. Just to look at one of his delicately ornamented instruments was to know it would sound wonderful.

Jane Kessler, a distinguished cellist for many years, fell in

love with a viola da gamba. The need for help with its care brought her into contact with Dietrich. In time, these two musicians came together, and created a household with, between them, eight children and four cats. They all lived in perfect harmony (except for the cats).

Since his recent death, Dietrich's lovingly restored viols continue to sing. Jane has retired from public performance, but she continues to support music, the arts and the church with cakes. Through her fingers they too are infused with the love of music.

The story of Finchley's hospital

By Daphne Chamberlain

If you missed the centenary celebration for Finchley Memorial Hospital in October, you can still catch up on its fascinating history in a new book.

In 1908 it was called Finchley Cottage Hospital, but an extension, opened in 1922, was designated as a memorial to Finchley people who fell in the First World War.

Reading this book, I was struck by the involvement of the whole community in creating and supporting our hospital. Architects, contractors, builders and labourers were all local people, and vital funds came in through donations and a wide range of sponsored events, including sporting competitions and cinema performances.

Community enterprise

It all started in 1904, with a meeting of eight people in a room above the shop of Mr Danby, a North Finchley saddler. Finchley Urban District had no hospital for its 33,000 residents, but many of those residents set about acquiring one in a practical and hard-headed way. No building work began until the necessary money was collected (£5,000 without the site).

The £5,000 was raised by

committees of residents, business people, the Rate Payers' Association and local medical practitioners, with regular payments coming in from the Working Men's Cottage Hospital Fund. Ebenezer Homan then bought the site from the Church Commissioners for £1,000.

In May 1908, the new cottage hospital opened with 20 beds: 10 for men, eight for women, and two for isolation cases. I did wonder about the slightly uneven gender distribution, but this was before women even had the vote.

Past and future

Finchley Memorial Hospital by Dorrell Dressekie takes us through the growth of our local hospital to where it stands today, on the brink of major development. Sponsored by the Friends of the Hospital, with support from Friern Barnet and District Local History Society, it includes a section of personal memories from former patients, and a wealth of information from many sources, including Barnet Archives.

Martin Primary and Nursery School

OPEN MORNING
Wednesday 11th February 2009
9.30 - 11.00 am



Pop in, see our Nursery at work and meet our staff

The deadline date for applications for places in our Nursery for April or September 2009 is Friday 27th February 2009.

For more information
please phone Suzy Derraji on 020 8883 1455.