



A radio trip around our manor

By Daphne Chamberlain

Did you hear our own Diana Cormack burst into song on the radio last month, or Arts Festival Director Geoffrey Hanson telling how his event all began in a café, or East Finchley Community Trust's Kate Brown revealing why the Old White Lion was once called the Dirthouse?

We know that some of you did. But for those who didn't, I'm talking about the Robert Elms programme on Radio London, on 11 October. He runs a series called Round Your Manor, and that morning East Finchley was the manor.

A good mix

It was a great opportunity for Geoffrey to publicise the festival. He emphasised that it had something for everyone, a claim backed up by phone caller Natalie, who said she had travelled the world but returned to East Finchley because of the really good mix of people we have here.

An employee of Alan's Records was quick off the mark too. He had to be, as Cllr Alon

Orbach, although praising the High Road's shops, unfortunately seemed unsure of its existence! Robert Elms actually knew it well.

I got the feeling that he knew more about us than he was letting on. Apparently he had more than once donned his Lycra to cycle up the High Road to Barnet. Diana seized that moment to mention Bike & Run and it was when he asked where Finchley Central was that she gave us "Finchley Central is 2/6d from Golders Green on the Northern Line", a 1967 hit from the New Vaudeville Band.

Kate Brown also sorted out our geography, explaining that we were originally the hamlet of East End, and reminding us that there was once a thriving motor

factory between Oak Lane and Long Lane. She made the point that our annual summer community festival represents everyone, and asked for suggestions for next year.

Our Manor's a pleasant place

A mixed community pulling together was the shared song sheet from interviewees and callers alike. "It seems a very pleasant place," said Robert Elms.

It was a pleasant programme too, even if time restraints meant it skimmed the surface. And even if Diana was introduced for the umpteenth time in her life as Diane. Take heed, folks, they are two entirely different names!



Diana, Betti, Louise, Phil, Henry and Ian enjoying their breakfasts. Photo courtesy of Betti Blatman

How many coincidences is that?!

During a visit to Melbourne, Australia, in August, East Finchley resident Betti Blatman popped into a shop in the Balaclava district near St Kilda and, as she went to pay, a man came to the desk delivering the free local newspaper The St Kilda News.

The man, Henry Shires, told Betti that he and his wife Louise were volunteers who wrote for that monthly paper. Betti mentioned that she used to write for THE ARCHER. Then Henry told her that he and Louise were due to visit London in September and it turned out that they would be staying in East Finchley!

When Betti asked where, he said it would be with the parents of their English friend who, like Louise, was a yoga teacher in Melbourne. And the name of this friend? Lucy Cormack, the daughter of The Archer's Diana Cormack, whom Betti of course knew through this newspaper.

The Australian couple were to be in London for only a day

before going to Brighton where, as it happens, Betti's son and his partner are also involved in yoga activities.

So Henry (who, incidentally, was the stand-in for Harold on the Aussie TV soap Neighbours) suggested having a get-together

and this took place on 20 September over an enjoyable breakfast in Chorak.

The Archer online

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

PCSO Jan Lovell, of the East Finchley Neighbourhood Policing Team, has the latest crime news.

Cherry Tree Wood

Many of you have enquired as to the result of the investigation into the serious sexual assault that occurred in Cherry Tree Wood in June. The investigation is still ongoing. As soon as there is a conclusion of this incident I will let you all know.

On consultation with Barnet Council it was agreed that the woodland green space in the park had become overgrown, especially the tree line. The tree canopy was raised in late summer by trimming lower branches, and bramble and scrub were cleared along the grass line. This has given the whole area a more open feeling whilst keeping the integrity of the wildlife species that live there.

We have patrolled Cherry Tree Wood very regularly over the summer and early autumn months and seen many of you enjoying the park. We are pleased to report that there have been only a few minor incidents, mainly between youths.

Extra officers

As reported in THE ARCHER in September, the Safer Neighbourhood base in the High Road is now also home to the dedicated ward officers for the Finchley Church End & West Finchley wards. This gives us the benefit of having additional officers to respond to a local incident.

On Sunday 18 September, PC Phil Scottow from East Finchley and PC Jack Smith from West Finchley attended Victoria Avenue, N3, responding to calls from a resident that there was drug dealing taking place in the area.

Two males were stopped in a vehicle matching the descriptions given to police by the local resident and found to be in possession of a quantity of cocaine, a substantial amount of cash and a set of digital scales. Both of the males were arrested for possession of a Class A drug with intent to supply and taken to Harrow police station where one of the males was charged to attend court. The other male was released with no further action taken by police.

Beat the burglars

As the dark evenings are upon us, remember to keep lights on or install timer switches to deter burglars. Remember also to securely lock all doors and windows.



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